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VOLUME LXII, NUMBER 18842

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1994 • TEVET 13, 5755 • RAJAB 13, 1415

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MAZADA TOURS

Rabin: Iran helping N. Korea develop long-range missile

DAVID MAKOVSKY and news agencies

NORTH Korea is developing a 1,300-km.-range missile with Iranian financial aid, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday in Seoul.

"North Korea has supplied Scud missiles to Iran and Syria ... North Korea has started by itself, financed by Iran, to develop a longer-range missile," he told a joint news conference after talks with South Korean President Kim Young-sam.

"Iran and Syria have launchers of Scud missiles, and at least one of the two countries is beginning production by means supplied by North Korea," he added.

He said he hopes South Korea and the US would use their influence to stop Pyongyang's meddling in Middle East affairs.

Meanwhile, Washington has fresh information that the North Korean-Iranian missile partnership has been renewed.

Jerusalem is concerned that should the missile be deployed in Iran, it could hit Israel.

On his recent trip to the US, Rabin had thanked Defense Secretary William Perry for using his influence to ensure that North Korea would no longer cooperate with Iran in missile development.

"We would like to see American activity regarding the development of the ground-to-ground missile in North Korea," Rabin told reporters in Seoul.

"We will have a dialogue with the Americans. To what extent we will succeed, we don't know. What is clear is that we have no influence [on North Korea]," said Rabin.

He added that Israel would also try with other parties who may have influence with Pyongyang, but did not elaborate.

Rabin and Kim agreed to promote personnel and material exchanges. They also agreed to expand trade and technological exchanges.

Iran accused Israel yesterday of trying to wreck its relations with Japan, but added that those efforts had failed.

State-run Teheran Radio said in a commentary that one aim of Rabin's visit to Tokyo had been to tarnish Japan's good ties with Iran.



Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu visits the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, where he toured the trading floor and traded quips with brokers. He renewed his call for the government to repeal the capital gains tax before it is implemented, saying it is bad for the economy. (Text: Sarah Honig; photo: Hanoch Grizisky/Israel Sun)

Gov't likely to take wrong tack on inflation

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

VEGETABLES may have pushed up this month's Consumer Price Index and a "package deal" may be touted even harder as the necessary remedy. But the former is a distraction and the latter a total red herring.

The Manufacturers Association is irked by the strength of the shekel, largely a result of higher interest rates. Exports do not seem to have suffered, but profit margins have been affected. They want to be compensated.

The government is inclined to accede and give them a NIS 500 million subsidy, by reducing the cost-of-living increment they have to pay. To pacify workers, they must also cut the health tax; but this will leave the govern-

ment with a shortfall it will have to cover somehow.

In short, the answer to inflation will be more government spending, when it should be exactly the opposite.

The two ways to tackle inflation, monetary policy aside, are cutting the budget deficit and structural reform of the economy.

Lower prices mean lower inflation, not to mention leaner, more efficient businesses that

are more competitive internationally.

Of course, there is a price to all this: lower wage settlements, and some job losses. But the economy's growth rate is strong, and the pain should not be too great. Unless, of course, the really right steps are not taken.

So the government should tell the manufacturers to take a hike on the package deal and get their house in order. It should get its own house in order, too. It has told us what a government of economic reform it has been. But the chilling truth is that under this government, the tax burden as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product has crept over the 40 percent mark.

Israel to drop opposition to Hamas taking part in Palestinian elections

DAVID MAKOVSKY

ISRAEL will drop its opposition to the participation of most Hamas members in elections for the Palestinian self-rule council, Israeli negotiators told their Palestinian counterparts in Cairo at this week's round of negotiations, which ended yesterday.

Israel will confine its objection to the participation of the Hamas terror wing Izaddin Kassam. Furthermore, Israel will object to those Palestinians, such as extremist imams, who incite terror, according to Israeli diplomats involved in the Cairo talks.

"In principle, we see the elections as their internal matter," a diplomat who participated in the

talks said last night upon returning here. "We are not against Hamas per se. But, we are against those specific Hamas people who are involved or were involved in terrorism. This message has been passed on to the Palestinians in Cairo."

Until now, Israel has insisted that Hamas rewrite its charter, deleting its call for the destruction of Israel, before members would be allowed to participate in the elections.

Estimates of Palestinians in the territories identifying with Hamas range from 15 percent to 35

percent.

Officials added, however, that no headway was made on the dispute regarding IDF redeployment away from Palestinian population centers in the territories before these elections.

Officials say Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO chairman Yasser Arafat are expected to meet next week to discuss the issue.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said there would be a meeting at "the highest level," before the next round, but no date was fixed.

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

Moscow extends Chechen deadline; Jews being evacuated

BATSHEVA TSUR and news agencies

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin yesterday extended by 48 hours his deadline for Chechen separatist fighters to lay down their arms, as the Russian advance was halted by thick fog.

A Yeltsin statement said the people of the rebel republic had 48 hours from midnight yesterday to disarm, so as to "minimize the use of force which could bring victims among the peaceful population."

Some 30 Jewish refugees who were successfully evacuated from Chechnya have succeeded in reaching safety in the north, the Jewish Agency spokesman said last night. They are being pro-

cessed for aliyah.

Another 40 members of the Jewish community who were caught up in the fighting between the Russian and Chechen forces succeeded in making their way across the icy Caucasian mountains to Azerbaijan, the spokesman said.

There were 1,500 Jews living in the Moslem-dominated region, but most succeeded in leaving prior to the Russian attack. Some 40 families still remain.

Before Yeltsin's extension of the ultimatum, Russian troops shelled Chechen forces north of Grozny and closed in around the capital, with the most forward units just seven kilometers from the city limits.

Thick fog then forced them to halt their advance.

The Russian government had originally vowed to crush Chechen fighters' resistance if they failed to disarm by yesterday.

But defiant Chechen forces, digging in to protect their capital,

fought back with shells, tanks, and gunfire and showed no signs of surrendering. Already, according to some regional officials, hundreds of civilians have been killed in the conflict.

"We will never give up our weapons," declared Yusuf Shamadin, the Chechen foreign minister, who kept his Kalashnikov on a nearby windowsill of his office as he spoke. "We will never let

the Russians into Grozny."

At least three farmers were killed yesterday when a Russian helicopter gunship opened fire on a farm near the settlement of Dolinskoye, eyewitnesses said.

Yeltsin's statement left open the chance of a negotiated settlement, saying he would send a high-ranking Russian delegation to talks if Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev agreed to head Chechnya's negotiating team and the shooting stopped.



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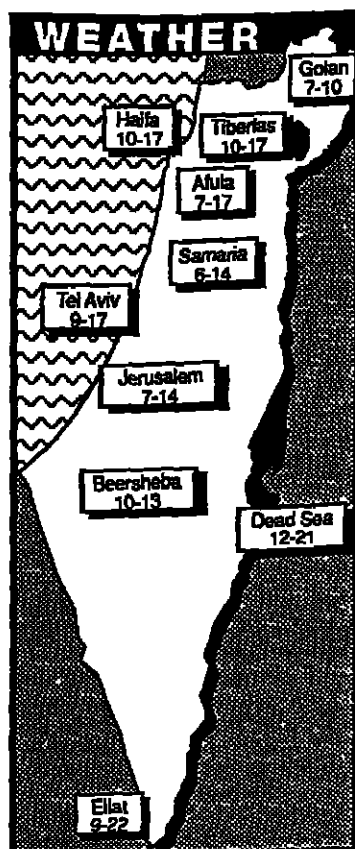
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The holder of ticket number 240784 won a Honda sports car.

Tickets numbered 206270, 277786, 819684, 087698, 778917, 392542, 385320, 822690, 084743, 224387, 043493, 476507, 606027, 154518, 639865, 288121, 431712, 493365, 079493, 588263, 186351, 852042, 342281, 530879, 675541 and 144997 won NIS 5,000.

Those tickets ending in 55363, 76454, 64179, 31605, 21735, 49924, 54807, 82635, 00760, 13136, 91346, 12794, 61595, 02300, 96577, 64046, 66980, 59667 and 67994 won NIS 1,000.

Tickets ending in 592, 555, 170, and 300 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 98, 03, 63 and 87 won NIS 20. Tickets ending in 01, 20, 31, 76, 93, 52 and 36 won NIS 10. Tickets ending in 8 won NIS 7.

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, queen of hearts, king of diamonds and ace of clubs.

Meiri may be court-martialed

ALON PINKAS
and JON IMMANUEL

SHMUEL Meiri, the soldier who was brutally attacked by a mob while driving through Ramallah on Wednesday, will probably be court-martialed for failing to comply with orders, IDF sources said last night.

Meiri, 41, remained hospitalized yesterday in good condition. He is to be released Sunday.

Regular and undercover troops yesterday swooped down on Ramallah and rounded up more suspects, bringing to 30 the number arrested since the incident.

The IDF and Border Police are on the lookout for several assailants whose identities have been established by the videotape of the incident made by a Palestinian crew. The sources said none of the suspects is a known Hamas activist.

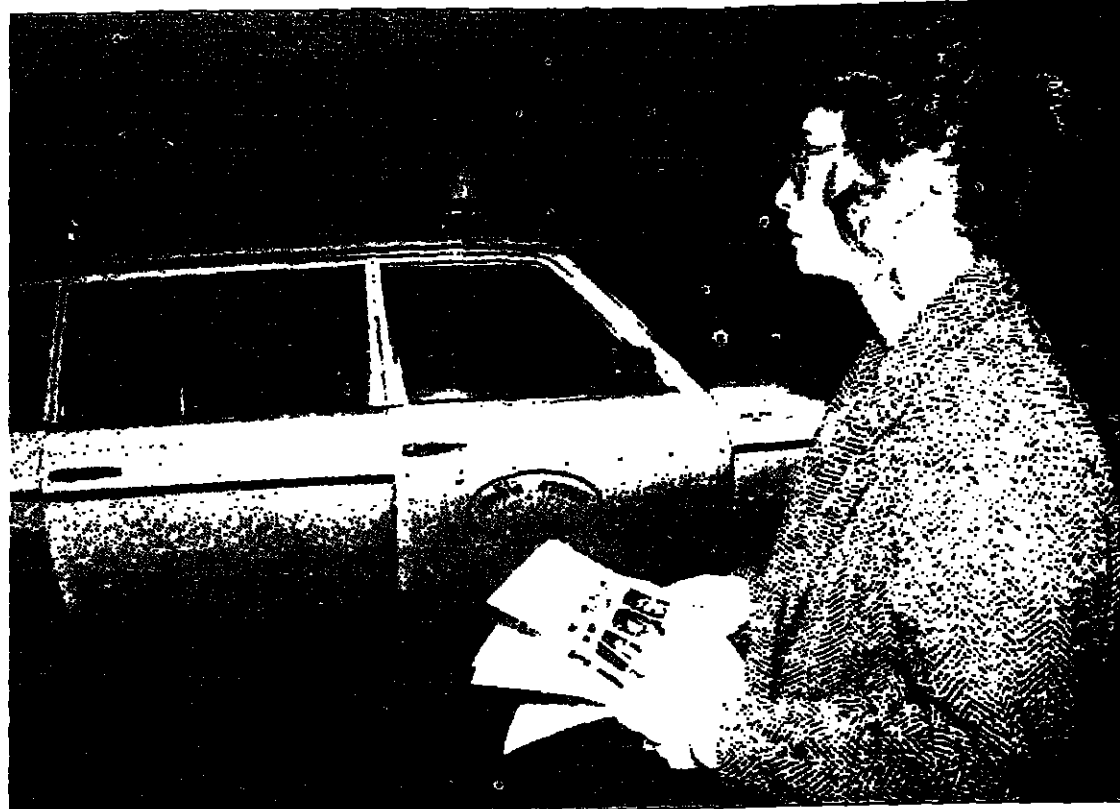
The IDF Spokesman said a preliminary investigation indicates Meiri violated appropriate norms of behavior during a life-threatening situation. "If the investigation concludes that he disobeyed orders, disciplinary action will be taken against him," the statement said.

The army sources stressed that Meiri should not have driven into the center of Ramallah unaccompanied.

"There are signs warning against that, and it is common sense. Meiri apparently ignored both. In addition, he should have used his weapon - as is required, not just recommended - in a life-threatening situation. Had border policemen not rushed to his assistance, he would have been killed," said one source.

Meiri said yesterday he had refrained from shooting, because he thought this would cause the mob to kill him.

In Seoul, South Korea, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin called



A settler yesterday distributes wanted posters of Palestinians who attacked Shmuel Meiri in Ramallah on Wednesday. (Brian Henders)

the incident "disgraceful."

"The fact that it happened is disgraceful, the mistake of going in there, the behavior of the Palestinians. If this could happen under military rule and the Israeli civil administration, who are we to complain about the Palestinians?" Rabin said.

MK Ariel Sharon (Likud) said Meiri should have used his rifle to defend himself. "I do not know why he didn't shoot. Maybe it was because of confused orders or lack of support for soldiers from the senior command," Sharon told Israel Radio.

President Ezer Weizman, however, criticized Meiri's detractors. "It is very easy to criticize in

a situation like this. But such criticism is not serious," he told Channel One.

He said standing open-fire orders are meant to ensure that soldiers do not shirk from confronting the enemy, but that being caught alone in a traffic jam by a hostile mob is not a normal military situation.

In a telephone interview with Channel Two, Meiri said he felt terrible throughout the ordeal, but had not even noticed that he had been stabbed.

His wife, Simona, said she could not describe her feelings watching the attack while photographers stood by filming. But the Palestinian TV crew, as well

as bystanders, said any involvement would have turned them into targets and collaborators.

The army sources noted that while bystanders offered no help, it was Palestinians who had alerted the Border Police.

Hussein Sheikh, the Fatah chief in Ramallah, denied that he or any other Fatah official had removed Meiri's weapon from his car and handed it over to Israeli police.

He said he plans to sue Israel TV for reporting that he was responsible. "I was not involved and have contacted a lawyer," Sheikh said.

David Rudge contributed to this report.

Rabin to face Shohat pro-tax coalition on return

SARAH HONG

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday managed to put together an impressive coalition of MKs against repealing the as-yet-unimplemented capital gains tax.

This further complicates the situation Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will face when he returns from the Far East on Sunday. While many Labor ministers and MKs want to do away with the unpopular tax, Shohat has now brought together considerable support for his position that the tax must be implemented on January 1 as scheduled.

Among the MKs who joined the pro-Shohat coalition were Ori Orr, Yossi Katz, Dalia Itzik, Gedalya Gal, Rafi Elul, Yael Dayan, Hagai Merom, Eli Goldschmidt, Ezzamel Zissman, Ra'anan Cohen, Yoram Lass, and Gideon Saguy.

Gal even asserted that, "More than half of the Labor Knesset

faction supports going ahead with this bill. We all voted for it. It has not so much as been given a try. To suddenly get cold feet because the public doesn't like it and because the polls don't smile on us is foolish. The party would lose all remnants of credibility, and the credibility loss would not be limited to one narrow issue. It would overflow and affect all that Labor is doing, including its peace policy."

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar suggested that the "government implement this tax and try it for at least a year. What's wrong with that? The tax is already on the books, so why not run it through a trial period and see if it's really as bad as some claim?"

"From what is evident now, the tax has no effect on the stock exchange. To dump it before it is put to the test is to cast doubt on the prudence and common sense of this government."

Work begins on free trade pact with Jordan

JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAELI and Jordanian negotiators yesterday began focusing on the nuts and bolts of reaching a free trade agreement and close economic cooperation.

The Joint Trade and Economic Cooperation Committee, which met in Dir Ala, Jordan, decided to create a trade subcommittee and a panel that will be responsible for investment, industrial cooperation, and monetary and banking issues.

The trade subcommittee, which will be headed on the Israeli side by the Customs Service, will focus in the coming months on reaching a Most Favored Nation (MFN) trade agreement between the countries. According to the Treasury's international division director

Ehud Kaufman, who co-chairs the joint committee, the Jordanians are pushing to start talks on MFN status.

Moreover, Kaufman adds, the Jordanians have a "broad concept of economic cooperation, with a heavy emphasis on a bilateral framework that includes Israeli investments in Jordan, joint industrial development, and joint free processing zones."

Asked whether the Jordanians envision setting up assembly plants next to the border, Mexico-style, Kaufman responded that his counterparts are strongly influenced by the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) agreement model.

Amman hotel serves kosher food

AMMAN (AP) - To attract religious Israeli tourists, a government-owned deluxe hotel here has begun serving kosher meals, a hotel official said yesterday.

Jacco Klip, food and beverage manager at the Intercontinental Hotel, also said he is considering hiring a Jewish cook to prepare kosher food for Israeli tourists. "We have started serving this kind of meals since [Israeli] tourists began coming," said Klip.

"We have had several requests for this kind of meals, and we are considering making them permanent items on our menu."

At least 3,000 Israeli tourists have visited Jordan since July. Meanwhile, Dawood Qutob, manager of Diana Tours, said his company is planning to build a chain of kosher restaurants near Jordanian tourist attractions.

Rubinstein calls on PA to teach peace

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein yesterday called on the Palestinian Authority to immediately begin promoting peace programs in schools.

"Against the background of the ghastly pictures of unbridled brutality [Wednesday] against the reserve soldier [Shmuel Meiri in Ramallah], I call on the heads of the PA to make a public declaration and to start taking steps toward encouraging mutual understanding," Rubinstein said. He added that even in the darkest days, Israelis had shown that they were prepared to continue supporting the peace process. Batseva Tsur.

Bethlehem Magistrate's Court inaugurated

JON IMMANUEL

The court will handle criminal and civil cases in coordination with the Civil Administration and the Israel Police, until the Palestinian Authority takes charge of legal matters outside Gaza and Jericho.

Government Coordinator in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Danny Rothchild said Israel will continue to police the area. Deputy Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser criticized the Israel Police for being ineffective in stemming crime in the city.

Ramallah Appeals Court President Judge Khalil Silwani praised the civil administration for not interfering in local legal issues.

In the autonomous areas, a legal dispute has already erupted over the Palestinian Authority's right to impose Egyptian-Gaza law on Jericho, which has always been governed according to Jordanian law.

The dispute involves a ruling by the PA High Court, which operates from Gaza. It ruled in fa-

vor of a Jericho landowner, who claimed water running through his property is his.

The municipality argued that the water passing through the property of Khader Maslamani was public property, and for the municipality to dispose of according to Jordanian law. The municipality decided the water should be distributed to the 170 farmers in the area.

Jericho Deputy Mayor Mohammed Nazih said all 13 members of the council "may resign" if the ruling stands.

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A memorial evening for Dr. Luise Wislicki will be held at Beit Bart, 56 Hebron Road, on Sunday, December 18, at 5 p.m. We will visit her grave on Friday, December 23, meeting at the gate of the Sanhedria Cemetery at 9 a.m.

CORRECTION

A headline in yesterday's Jerusalem Post erroneously described President Ezer Weizman's donation to the surgery expenses of a sick teenager as a loan. The Jerusalem Post regrets the error.

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PA buys from Karnei Shomron plant

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Authority Health Department is doing business with a Jewish settlement, a Jerusalem Arabic newspaper claimed yesterday.

The report in the weekly *A-Taliah*, associated with the People's Party, said the PA had purchased 5,000 blankets from a factory in the Karnei Shomron industrial zone, east of Kalkilya. Workers said they were stamping "Palestinian Authority" on the

blankets, which then went to Palestinian hospitals.

"The Palestinian Authority is doing this when all Palestinian factions are demanding the boycott of settlements," the paper noted.

It turns out, however, that the owner of the factory, Fuad Shehadeh, is an Israeli Arab from Tira, whose family owns a textile business there.

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'Peres, Rabin shouldn't interfere in race for Agency head'

BATSHEVA TSUR and SARAH HONIG

ACTING Jewish Agency Chairman Yehiel Leket yesterday appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres not to interfere in the choice of a candidate for the chairmanship of the Agency.

The Labor Party is due to meet in the near future to decide on its candidate, and Leket and MK Avraham Burg are said to be contending for the post.

Burg is Peres's man. He has been loyal to Peres and identified with him for years, and Peres, according to those close to him, has put his full political weight behind Burg.

Rabin has not been as helpful to Leket. Although Leket has for decades been identified with the Peres camp, it is thought that Rabin would back him more meaningfully were he sure that he is not opposed by too many of the foreign members of the agency Board of Governors. If he could win minimal assurances on that count, Rabin would assist Leket as unstintingly as Peres supports Burg, Labor sources said.

But even if he decides not to back Leket, the sources said, Rabin will support another candidate, not Burg.

Board of governors chairman Mendel Kaplan yesterday denied reports he is opposed to Leket, who has been serving as chairman since Simcha Diniz, now on trial for fraud, took a leave of absence. Diniz's term expires at the end of the month and Leket will fill the position until a permanent chairman is elected when the board convenes in Jerusalem in February.

This is not "a question of personal preferences but rather a procedural matter," Kaplan said. He added that he represents his constituents — the United Israel Appeal and Keren Hayesod — which will have to vote on the names presented to them by the Prime Minister.



One of six professionals from the Shanghai Municipality yesterday visits mentally disabled youngsters at a community center in Jerusalem's Kiryat Hayovel section. The delegation is here on a nine-day trip to learn about programs for the elderly and educational programs for children with disabilities developed for community centers by the Joint Distribution Committee. The JDC plans to help implement such programs in China. (Text: Batsheva Tsur. Photo: Debby Cooper)

Shas debates whether to support no-confidence motion on Peres's King David remarks

HERB KEINON

THE Shas faction is to meet soon to determine whether Foreign Minister Shimon Peres slandered King David in his speech to the Knesset Wednesday, and whether this warrants the party's trying to bring down the government.

"The episode took place last night, and we still have to convene the faction and the rabbis to determine what to do," Shas MK Shlomo Benizri said yesterday, when asked whether Shas would vote no-confidence as a result of the foreign minister's comments.

In a debate Wednesday that dealt with the Nobel Peace Prize, Peres said, "Not everything that King David did, on the ground, on the roofs, is acceptable to a Jew or is something I like." This was a reference to David's love affair with Bathsheba, and his subsequent dispatching of her husband, Uriah, to the battlefield, with orders he be placed in a position where he was sure to be killed.

Following the remarks, the National Religious Party, United Torah Judaism, and Moleket submitted no-confidence motions, which are to be heard in the plenum on Monday.

Peres took a beating in the bared press yesterday for his remarks. Agudat Yisrael's daily *Hamodia* termed them "slandering, abusive words" that "have not been heard since the establishment of the Knesset, which has pretenses to being the parliament that represents the State of Israel."

"He [Peres] injured the sensitivities of tens of thousands of Jews who cling day and night to the psalms recited by King David. One does not have to be a believer to be shocked by the tone of the words, words that if they were said by a gentile — not during an hour of drunkenness — would shock the world from end to end," the paper said in an editorial.

Degel Hatorah's daily, *Yated Ne'eman*, wrote that Peres's clarification of his remarks, in which he said that he did not intend to denigrate King David or offend the religious, was of little consolation.

"Since this phenomenon repeats itself time after time, we have no reason to hearken to the foreign minister's clarification, and this

calls for an unequivocal and sharp protest," the paper wrote in its editorial.

Coalition chairman Eli Dayan (Labor) yesterday tried to pacify the parties that had submitted the no-confidence motions, asking them to accept Peres's clarification and to withdraw the motions.

He said that a debate on the motions would only deepen the divide between the country's religious and secular residents, since the motions themselves would be defeated by the coalition.

This is not the first time during this government's tenure that King David has caused a Knesset uproar. In February 1993, Labor MK Yael Dayan elicited similar responses from the bared press and politicians when, during a debate dealing with homosexuals, she implied that King David was a homosexual.

As a result of Peres's Knesset comments, King David's life and times were widely discussed on radio talk shows yesterday, with politicians and rabbis debating his personality and actions.

Item contributed to this report.

Haredim may force closure of capital artery

BILL HUTMAN

HAREDI pressure may force the closure of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, although the road does not meet the long-held criteria for Shabbat closure, city councilor Shmuel Shkedi, who holds the capital's transport portfolio, said this week.

"Personally, I don't think it would be right to close the road," said Shkedi, of the National Religious Party. "I have been in favor of other closures, because there were alternative routes. But when you study the traffic patterns in that part of the city, it is easy to see there is no realistic alternative to Bar-Ilan."

Shkedi said Mayor Ehud Olmert will have the final say on the closure, after an independent committee recently set up to study the issue gives its recommendations. The committee's findings are to be based on objective considerations.

But Shkedi said pressure by haredi coalition partners might force the road's closure, even if the experts rule it would cause traffic problems.

More Israelis taking vacations at home

HAIM SHAPIRO

DESPITE the attractions of Turkey and other low-priced Mediterranean destinations, more Israelis are taking vacations at home than ever before, according to a survey released yesterday by the Tourism Ministry.

The figures were presented by Tourism Minister Uzi Baram at the opening of a winter campaign to encourage Israelis go to local resorts.

The survey showed that Israelis will have spent 7.7 hotel bed nights per capita in the country by the end of 1994, an increase of 8 percent over 1993. Of these, 5.3 million bed nights were in recommended hotels, an increase of 5%; 1 million bed nights were in new hotels which have not yet been

graded, an increase of 30%; and 1.5 million were in youth hostels and 800,000 in bed-and-breakfasts, a combined increase of 4%.

Based on figures through September, the greatest increases were in Netanya, which had 22% more Israeli guests; Tiberias, 15%; Haifa, 15%; Herzliya, 18%; and kibbutz guest houses, 10%. Below average increases were registered in Eilat, 6%, and Tel Aviv, 4%.

Baram said the relatively modest showing of Eilat was due to its being filled with foreign tourists and a lack of publicity in the local market.

But despite the relatively small increase, Eilat was still the favorite resort among the greatest number of Israelis, 33%, with Tiberias and the North coming in second.

About a third of those questioned said that they had gone abroad this year, and more than half said the trip had been instead of a vacation in Israel.

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Doctors: We will ignore new tight budgets

JUDY SIEGEL

PATIENTS will be treated according to medical, not economic, considerations, doctors said yesterday, adding they would ignore the Health and Finance ministries plans to restrict hospital budgets once the National Health Insurance Law takes effect January 1.

Hundreds of senior doctors held an emergency meeting at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital yesterday to discuss the plans of the Health and Finance ministries that "will bring catastrophe on the public hospitals."

If, in the middle of the year, the hospitals run out of money and the medical infrastructure collapses, "The ministries will be forced to explain their failures to the public," the Israel Medical Association said on their behalf last night.

They doctors said they intend to protest against the government's intentions to "cut budgets drastically and reduce the number of medical procedures."

The IMA demanded that all the "edicts" restricting hospital budgets and medical procedures and "unrealistic hospitalization rates" be rescinded immediately, because they will "not be carried out by the doctors."

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh said during a tour of Nahariya Hospital yesterday that he recognized the public hospitals were "not a profit-making business. A

hospital is efficient if it provides more services within the framework of a limited budget."

Sneh denied that the public hospitals would be limited to performing only a certain number of medical procedures or would have to observe quotas.

"At most, they will receive less compensation [for what they do]," Sneh said. "There will be no decline in the number, nature, and quality of medical procedures or in the number of hospital beds. On the contrary, there will be more beds."

Prof. Eliezer Kaplinsky, dean of Tel Aviv University's Sackler School of Medicine, a leading cardiologist, said that "All the power of the Health Ministry, including the minister and director-general, is dependent on the cooperation of the doctors. It is thus impossible that they will force upon us arrangements against our will."

IMA chairman Dr. Miriam Tzangen noted that the association fought for national health insurance, but the state has not committed itself to enough support for the medical system.

National expenditures per capita on health are among the lowest in the developed world, she said, adding that Israel has the lowest relative number of hospital beds and the highest hospital occupancy rates.

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Ramallah's shame

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the unnamed high-ranking army officers quoted last night had good reason to be harshly critical of Shmuel Meiri's conduct on Wednesday. The 41-year-old reserve soldier obviously acted against army regulations when, faced with a murderous mob out to lynch him, he failed to use his weapon to defend himself.

The least Meiri could have done was fire in the air to summon help, but - perhaps because he was in a state of shock from the minute the first cinder block smashed his car's windshield - he preferred to beg for mercy. Only the fortuitous arrival of a Border Police unit prevented a murder-by-stoning similar to that which in 1990 ended the life of another reserve soldier, Amnon Pomerantz, in the Gaza District's Bureij refugee camp.

But it was not the soldier's paralysis which was most disturbing about the Ramallah incident. The sight of the bloodthirsty mob, the infinite hatred in the attackers' eyes, and the cowardly ruthlessness with which they attempted to kill Meiri as if he were a poisonous snake - all this more than a year after the famous handshake on the White House lawn - was enough to discourage the most undaunted optimist.

To misunderstand this blood lust and its implications is to misunderstand the neighborhood in which Israel lives. And to blame the soldier's wrong turn for the attempted lynching is to undermine Israel's ability to survive in this neighborhood.

Regrettably, this is precisely what Rabin did yesterday. In his comment on the incident, he not only blasted the soldier for not acting properly and his commanders for not making certain that Israelis do not blunder into Ramallah's

center. He said that Israel's inability to prevent such incidents makes it impossible to demand better results from the Palestinian Authority. Worse, he averred that the reaction of the mob to the sight of a lone Israeli was to be expected. "Do you expect them to be more Catholic than the pope? What do you think, they love us?" he rhetorically asked the press.

The implication is clear. Israelis who wander into Arab population centers should expect to be killed. Or, as the late police minister Haim Bar-Lev once said about a multiple murder in Hebron, had they not been there, they would not have been killed.

To hear such comments in independent Israel, not in an East European shtetl, is flabbergasting. Every Israeli should be able to go into every Arab neighborhood with the same feeling of security an Arab possesses when he walks in a Jewish neighborhood. That this is not the case is not the Israeli's fault, but a measure of the savagery which still dominates the Arab street and Israel's inability to control it.

For Rabin to conclude from the Ramallah incident, as he did yesterday, that the two nations should be "separated" (assuming he is not talking about transfer) is to prescribe the perpetuation of the present anomaly: Arabs can walk freely anywhere in Israel, while Jews fear entering Arab towns and villages.

It is far more reasonable to hope that incidents like the mob attack in Ramallah can eventually be eliminated; that the thirst for blood will be replaced by a thirst for peace. But it must also be obvious that no such hope can be realized as long as Israel rewards terrorists, and the world - which cannot be expected "to be more Catholic than the pope" - continues to lionize them.

Inflation and the bourse tax

THE only certainty about the capital gains tax on stocks, due to take effect January 1, is that both its supporters and opponents exaggerate the impact it will have. It is not the most important innovation in the Israeli economy in recent years, and it will not do what its supporters claim: nip inflation, vastly increase Treasury revenues, and end wild speculation. Nor will it raise inflation, kill the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, and bring economic ruin to the country, as its detractors predict.

The very fact that, in the summer of 1993, the most vocal opponent of such a tax was Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, and that its most ardent and stubborn supporter today is the very same Shohat, should indicate that arguments can be made for both positions with equal conviction.

Even its impact on the bourse will not be long-lasting. Investors will undoubtedly learn to live with it. As even a cursory review of recent events shows, the TASE's doldrums did not begin with the new tax, nor will the market dramatically revive if Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, whose own vacillations on the issue have probably damaged his credibility more than anything else, will now decide to make another 180 degree turn and abolish it.

Far more worrisome than the possible consequences of the capital gains tax is the fact that inflation is still rising, as yesterday's cost-of-living index rise of 1.3 percent plainly indicates. It can hardly be comforting to a government which made bringing inflation down to "Western" dimensions its goal. This November was the worst in four years, and the annual inflation rate - single-digit in 1992 and a little over 11 percent in 1993 - is now approaching 15%.

With good reason, this dangerous inflationary trend is Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's main concern. To combat it, he has insisted on raising interest rates. But, as Frenkel readily admits, raising rates alone is ineffective.

It must be part of an economic policy which encourages growth and limits government expenditures. No such policy exists.

The government may do well to study the recommendations of the Shalem Center, which in a position paper written by Jason Elbaum suggests the termination of the Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investment. The system of subsidizing "approved enterprise" and politically favored institutions (such as the kibbutzim and the Histadrut's Kupat Holim Clalit health fund) is an invitation to favoritism, corruption, and waste. Only the free market should determine credit availability, says the paper. "This should fight inflation by promoting rapid economic expansion and lowering corporate borrowing costs."

Elbaum proposes substantial reductions in corporate income tax rates, payroll taxes, and other taxes on business activity, and a concomitant phasing out of state subsidies and grants. The resulting economic growth, the emergence of business activity from the "underground economy," and the taxation of businesses no longer given special tax-free status will make up for the loss of revenue.

Other proposals include what virtually all economists have been suggesting in the past few years: stable, consistent tax rules and rates, which are vital to economic growth; a stable environment for business that can attract investors; accelerated privatization of state-owned corporations and the removal of unnecessary regulations on business activity; and the opening of the Israeli market - "still riddled with inefficient monopolies and cartels in everything from telecommunications to universities to citrus marketing," as Elbaum states - to competition.

It is in these areas that the government must act if it wishes to curb inflation and encourage growth. The on-again-off-again taxing of the bourse is marginal.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir, - In his article "Plans disclosed to build Jewish housing on expropriated Arab lands" (*The Jerusalem Post*, December 13), Bill Hutman describes the alleged plans of the municipality for massive Jewish housing construction between the new Shufat Ridge neighborhood and the Atarot industrial zone in northern Jerusalem.

Hutman relied on a map published in January 1993 in a book entitled *The Eastern Ring Road*. This book was compiled to provide background information about construction plans then under consideration but not approved.

On the map in question, the area between Shufat Ridge and the Atarot industrial zone is blocked off as an "area of planned construction" - referring to Arab housing construction plans. This area is marked with yellow stripes. Other areas of the map are labeled as "areas of Jewish housing construction" and are marked with orange stripes. Perhaps Bill Hutman should double-check his map and learn to differen-

HOUSING PLANS

tiate between different, if similar, colors.

I categorically reject Hutman's statement and emphasize that no Jewish housing construction for that area is planned. In fact, the site in question has been approved for Arab housing construction, and a detailed planning process has begun.

As a result of Hutman's error, the Spokesman's Office had to answer calls from journalists in Israel and abroad in order to refute the aforementioned article.

CHAGAI ELIAS
Spokesman
Jerusalem Municipality
Jerusalem.

Bill Hutman replies:

The spokesman's contention that the land in question "has been approved for Arab housing construction" will certainly come as a surprise to the area's Arab residents, who to this day are not allowed to build there.

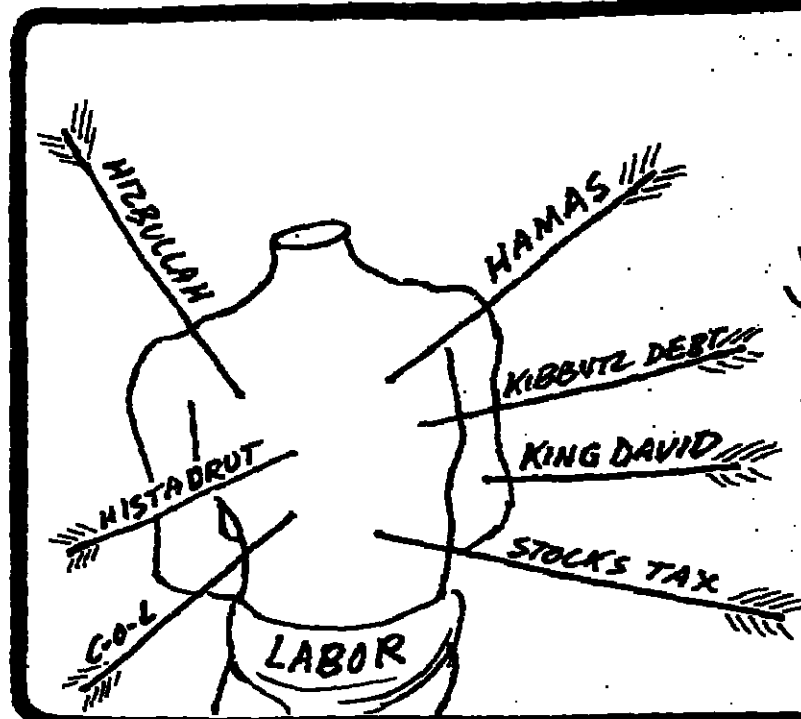
In fact, the land, just west of the Beit Hanina and Shufat neighborhoods, was only recently zoned off-limits for construction to the Arab residents. City officials directly involved in the matter say, as *The Jerusalem Post* reported, the land is to be rezoned for Jewish housing development.

WISHFUL THINKING

Sir, - When will good sense and clear thinking take the place of starry-eyed wishful thinking and reliance on empty promises?

Each attack resulting in more Israeli "victims of peace" is met with calls from dovish circles for more concessions, earlier empowerment, and urgent requests for disbursement of aid from the donor countries. Why are there no concomitant calls for Arafat to live up to the agreements he signed and the commitments he made?

FAY DICKER
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Message from Tokyo

MOSHE ZAK

AMBASSADOR Itamar Rabinovich knows that there's nothing new about meetings between high-ranking Israeli and Syrian army officers. They have been part of the Israeli and Syrian delegations to the Washington talks ever since the Madrid Conference.

Unlike cabinet ministers and the Israeli media, the ambassador is quite familiar with the story of the 1949 meetings between generals Yigael Yadin and Mordechai Makleff and Syrian officers at the Shulamit Hotel in Rosh Pina. Rabinovich described them at length in his most recent book.

Those talks were frank - to the extent that one of the Syrians offered to help Makleff pull off a military coup in Israel, using the Syrian model. Makleff reported this to David Ben-Gurion, who entered it in his diary on April 27, 1949.

The Americans, who have been trying to get President Assad to renew the Washington talks with the participation of Syrian generals, nevertheless candidly admit that the presence of these generals would not constitute a breakthrough. They are aware that ever since Syrian dictator Col. Hossni Za'im proposed meeting with Ben-Gurion in the '50s and right up to the Six Day War, the Syrians were careful to keep to the military channel in talks with Israel - and, in fact, ruled out meetings at the political level.

Only this week, Henry Kissinger warned against the illusion that the Syrians would agree to full peace in return for Israeli withdrawal. Their intention, he said, is an armistice or the end of belligerency. The framework of

military discussions suits the Syrian view of a military settlement as a substitute for full peace.

Despite all this, a paroxysm of joy reverberated in the government and Israel's media. It was as though the Syrians had given in to American pressure by agreeing to include senior army officers in the Washington talks - when there was really no change in Syria's stand.

Assad took Rabin's words on Hizbullah as a sign of weakness

In the same way, Assad's declaration that he is willing to accept the deployment of an international force that will include American soldiers on the Golan contains nothing to advance peace.

The Sinai model doesn't apply on the Golan: it was the Soviets' refusal to recognize the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty that led to the setting up of an international force composed mainly of US troops.

Today's Russian government will not want to miss the opportunity of participating in a Golan force, and they will want it to be under the UN umbrella. And UN forces are subject to the kind of conditions that brought about their withdrawal from Sinai in 1967, and their threatened withdrawal from Bosnia today.

Even US administration officials who speak about American participation in a Golan peace-keeping force limit such participation to integration in a UN

force. This is altogether different from the illusions being disseminated to the Israeli public, to make the idea of withdrawal from the Golan more saleable.

THE PREMIER'S statement in Tokyo this week that there is no military solution to Hizbullah attacks on the northern border, and that the solution is ultimately a political one, indicates the same

informational trend: that only an agreement with Syria can restrain Hizbullah. This is presented as one more reason to convince the Israeli public of the security need dictating withdrawal from the Golan.

The defense minister is entitled to have reservations about the OC Northern Command's stated view on how to fight Hizbullah, and there are confidential channels for expressing them. But his open remark in Tokyo was recorded not only in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, but Damascus and Beirut too.

In Damascus, it was interpreted to mean that Syria's remote control of Hizbullah is bearing fruit, that the terror on our northern border is exerting pressure on Israel to relinquish the Golan.

Former UN undersecretary of state Joseph Sisco reported this week that Assad appears free of any time constraints as far as negotiating with Israel is concerned. But Yitzhak Rabin looks as if he's

racing against the clock, spurred on by Hizbullah's activities.

This gap in Israeli and Syrian degrees of urgency only increases Syria's bargaining power.

In Beirut, our defense minister's remark about the ineffectiveness of Israeli-initiated actions in Lebanon is interpreted as granting immunity to Hizbullah bases throughout Lebanon.

The prime minister seems to be signaling the nation that it must show patience in the face of the Hizbullah provocations, and not press for more energetic IDF counter-strikes at Hizbullah bases. And in pointing to terror attacks against Israeli and Jewish targets abroad as retaliation for Israeli attacks on Hizbullah targets, Yitzhak Rabin did nothing to damp down the war of attrition raging against us in the security zone. On the contrary, without meaning to, he merely poured oil on the Hizbullah flame.

In the glass house of a democratic state like Israel, every word uttered echoes far away, even as far as Damascus. And words like the prime minister's encourage Assad by showing that Israel's patience is exhausted, leading him to believe that, with Hizbullah's help, he can soften Israel's position vis-à-vis the Golan.

Assad also draws encouragement from talk about restricting the IDF's suppression of Hizbullah terror, as he does from remarks by Israel's science and communications minister. Talking to US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Assad quoted Shimon Peres saying that Israel's presence on the Golan Heights is illegal.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Outside and angry at the Oslo awards

AVI WEISS

A thousand thanks for the coffin.

These were the sarcastic words of Geir Lundestad, Secretary of the Nobel Committee, as we handed him a coffin, symbolic of countless numbers of innocent men, women and children whom Yasser Arafat is responsible for murdering.

A sign taped on the coffin read: "Aside from Hitler, no one has killed more Jewish civilians in the 20th century than Yasser Arafat."

"I wish to talk with you," I told Lundestad. He closed the door in my face.

This exchange occurred just hours after our arrival in Oslo, two days before Arafat would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. We had traveled to Oslo not out of political motivation, but for ethical reasons.

The award to Arafat encourages international terrorism. It sends a message to the world that one may bomb schools, buses and synagogues, murder American diplomats and citizens and be rewarded with the Nobel prize.

Israelis are divided in their opinions of the peace process, but a significant majority insist that the award to Arafat is outrageous.

In fact, a recent opinion poll indicates that 64 percent of Israelis believe Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres should not have accepted the peace prize when Jews are being murdered weekly, when the PLO Covenant still calls for Israel's destruction.

Some of the families of Arafat's victims had also come to Oslo to demonstrate their outrage: a mother whose 16-year-old daughter was hacked to death; a bride of four months whose marriage was cut short; a father whose son was firebombed beyond recognition.

The bride echoed the Shema prayer: "I loved my husband with all my heart, with all my soul,

with all my might."

It will take weeks for those of us who were there to get over what we experienced in Oslo.

Not one Jew from Oslo joined us in our protests, although many told us they agreed with us. Only evangelical Christians helped - and an extraordinary couple, Michaela and Kristoffer. He is a professor of physics and a Christian, in the vanguard of the Soviet Jewry movement. In our presence, he always wore a kippa.

There are times you have to be there, to speak out. This was one of them

He told me: "If ever Jews will be threatened here, I will be circumcised to express my solidarity with them."

On several occasions, Oslo police were brutal. Our history of protests across Europe for Jewish causes, widely reported in the Oslo press prior to our arrival, singled us out for special attention.

On Friday, a few hours before the onset of Shabbat, as we stood at the side of the Nobel Institute building awaiting the arrival of Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, the police moved us from place to place. A chief officer viciously and intentionally jabbed me in the back.

We were standing in the area the police finally assigned to us when a police van pulled up. Without warning, officers jumped out and charged me, pulling my colleagues away. I was pushed to the ground.

The police threw themselves at me, and only my quick movement saved me from the full force of their weight. My arm was twisted behind my back and I was

forced into the van along with my colleagues, David Kalb, Joshua Meisels and Ronni Torossian, three activists who deserve the highest accolades. I have rarely experienced such police brutality.

WE SPENT seven and a half hours in separate 4 m. by 2.5 m. isolation cells.

Nothing was in the cell except a toilet, which was flushed from the outside by an attendant every few hours. We were given neither

food nor water. We could not see each other, but we could hear.

In the midst of that isolation, we sang, we prayed, we studied Torah. We ushered in the Shabbat, singing the traditional *Lecha Dodi* to the soulful melody of Shlomo Carlebach.

I reflected upon the irony that as we were in prison, Yasser Arafat, who should be arrested and tried for crimes against humanity, was at that very moment arriving in Norway as a hero.

Five hours after the onset of Shabbat, we were released. We left all our belongings in the prison and walked the long distance back to our hotel. We pleaded not guilty to the charge of conducting an illegal demonstration, and now face five days' imprisonment or a \$400 fine each. We will submit a complaint charging the Oslo police with misconduct.

We later learned that Rabbi Shalom Gold of Jerusalem, New York State Assemblyman Dov Hikind and many others who sought to pray at Friday evening services at the Oslo synagogue were denied entrance on the

grounds that Yitzhak Rabin was inside. The synagogue was half full.

The protests came to a crescendo on Saturday evening, as the peace prizes were bestowed.

Images abound: a six-year-old Yemenite boy at his mother's side, his father the bus driver murdered in the Afula attack; torches placed by the families of victims in the middle of the street, a memorial to those struck down by Arab terror; horses, pushing the crowd back.

One policeman lost control, and he and his horse went down. There were police dogs off to the side, ready to attack us if necessary. Plainclothes police shadowed our every move; Jews, including the Norwegian chief rabbi, left the festivities.

The crowd could not contain itself. Shouts of "Shame! Shame!" for giving honor to a terrorist, greeted them.

The ceremony was over. We walked a few blocks to the Grand Hotel, where Arafat, Rabin and Peres were staying.

The tradition is that the Nobel prize recipients appear on the balcony. As they did so, I thought: What a contrast. There they are, in this luxurious hotel, being served a lavish dinner on expensive china, and then returning to their opulent suites.

Standing outside in the cold were the families of victims of terror, holding torches in memory of their beloved, preparing to return to their modest hotels and simple dinner.

I knew where I would rather be. I would not have changed places with the awardees. There are times when one just has to speak the truth.

If only this Nobel ceremony had never been. But how blessed we feel, having been there.

The writer is national president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns-Amcha.

Free ticket

JOSHUA BERMAN

WHEN the Lord created the world, He created Adam and Eve. Moral Majority leader Jerry Falwell once thundered, "not Adam and Steve."

Yet even without opening a Bible at Leviticus 20:13, there is good reason to be concerned about the High Court's ruling in El Al versus Danilowitz.

El Al offers employees one free ticket a year for the employee's "spouse (wife/husband)" (according to a collective employees' agreement). The court ruled that this entitlement extends to homosexual partners as well.

The court said to little Yoni: 'You can be like Mommy and Daddy, or you can marry another man'

The ruling constitutes only the most recent and damaging erosion of that embattled institution of society: the family.

The fundamental impulse of a healthy society is to perpetuate itself. In the case of the Jewish people, this has been a millennial obsession in the face of unabated oppression. The State of Israel is an expression of the collective will of the Jewish people to continue, even after the Holocaust.

As recently as three decades ago, continuity was ensured by the status of the nuclear family as the standard toward which one strived. Since then, cohabitation prior to marriage, or in place of it, has become the norm. The divorce rate is on the rise. More people choose to remain single. Homosexuality is practiced more openly.

British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks has incisively charted this social transformation. Sin becomes immorality, immorality becomes deviance, deviance becomes choice, and all choice becomes legitimate.

IT IS one thing to recognize a person's right to express his own sexual preference. But in El Al versus Danilowitz the High Court

has taken a quantum leap. Representing our entire culture, it has given the homosexual partnership the stamp of public approval by legally comparing it with marriage.

The ruling in the El Al case is but a short judicial flight to Sweden, where inheritance laws apply to homosexual partners. And from there, it will be only a brief stopover before the court takes us to Denmark, where homosexuals legally marry as men and women do.

In a democratic society, individuals are free to do as they please. But a Jewish society should not offer public recognition and status to a lifestyle that is a Jewish dead end. Intern marriage is one such end. So are homosexual partnerships.

Some will argue that the claim here is alarmist; homosexuals account for a small percentage of society. No matter what status they attain, there will still be Jews in 2048.

But this is shortsighted. By endorsing homosexual partnerships, the court has sent a message to all Jews, relieving them of the responsibility to consider the future of our people.

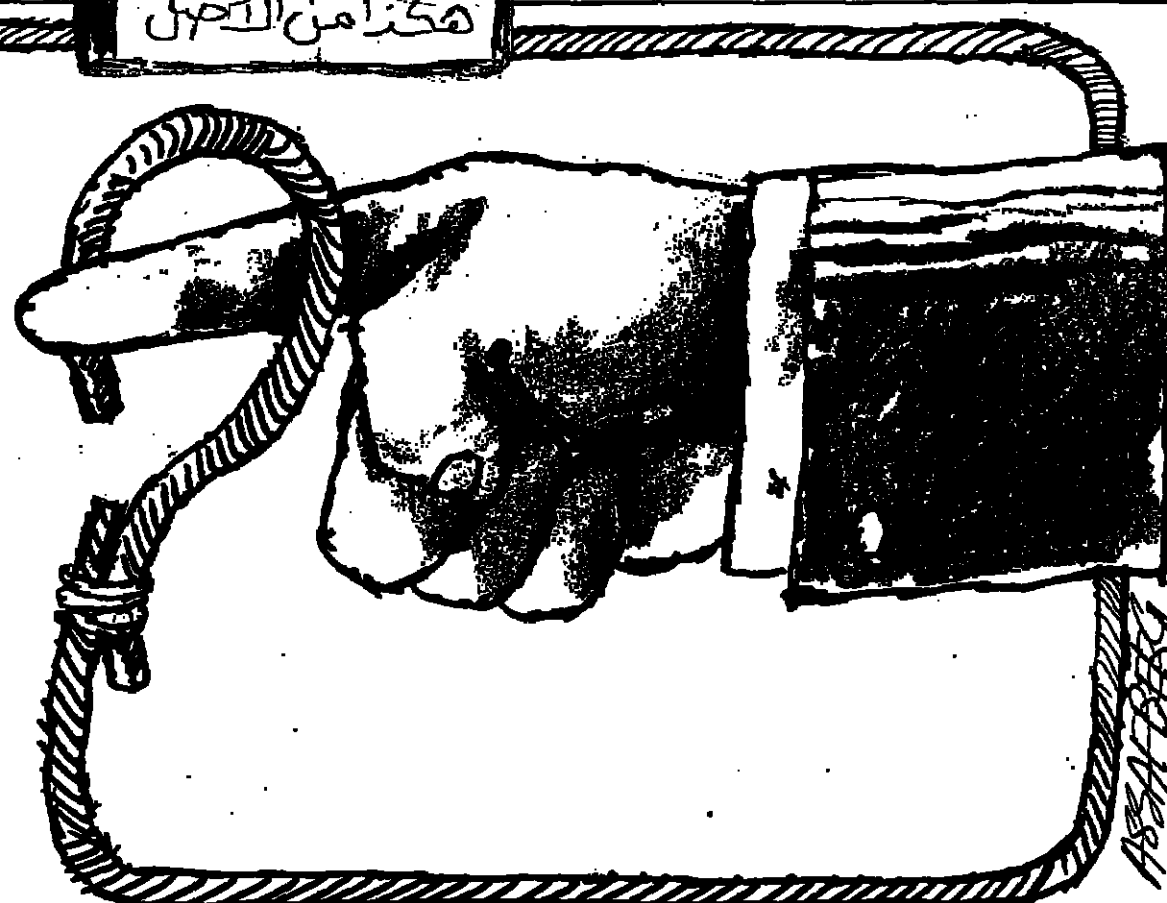
This is the statement that should have been made to our young: We need stable families. Instead, the court has said to little Yoni, "You can be like Mommy and Daddy, or you can marry another man. We have no opinion on the matter. Whichever option you choose, you'll have our blessing. And a free flight on El Al."

El Al versus Danilowitz may be termed a case of Society versus Self.

The star witness of the plaintiff, the nuclear family, entered the court, weary from decline. It emerged ignored and dejected, to encounter a scene of jubilation.

There, on the steps of the court, the band leader announced to a drum roll: "And now, ladies and gentlemen... join me in greeting, publicly and legally, for the first time... our new couple... Adam and Steve!"

The writer is a lecturer at Nishmat - the Center for Advanced Jewish Study for Women.



Does the death penalty mean less crime?

RALPH AMELAN

AN 18th-century memorial cross in the southern English town of Devizes provides physical evidence of the death penalty's deterrent effect on crime.

The inscription states that a dispute arose between four women as to who hadn't paid her share of the price of some wheat. One claimed she had paid, and added that if she had spoken truly, the Almighty should strike her dead.

She then dropped lifeless to the ground. The missing money was found clutched in her hand.

Suitably impressed, the mayor and the aldermen erected the cross as an awful warning to the citizenry: though judging by the poor record some local authorities have as custodians of public money, perhaps the citizenry should have erected the cross as an awful warning to the mayor and the aldermen.

But the message is clear. Tell people that the penalty for crime is death, and they will commit fewer crimes.

But is it true?

The death penalty exists in Israel, but has only been carried out by the state once, in the Adolf Eichmann case. Military courts have occasionally passed

death sentences on terrorists under legislation carried over into Israeli law from Mandatory regulations of 1945, but they have always been commuted.

Criminologists cannot decide whether the death penalty does indeed deter crime. Age, family background, poverty, television and cinema violence, even the weather - all have to be taken into account. And the number of those deterred from murder do not, of course, show up in the statistics.

A survey of the existing literature was undertaken five years ago by Prof. Roger Hood, director of the Center for Criminal Research at Oxford University. Nearly all the research covered is of limited reliability.

Take the study in which one researcher analyzed the number of homicides in London in the weeks before and after newspaper reports of 22 hangings that took place between 1858 and 1921.

He found that homicides fell in the week of the execution, and for the next two weeks; then there was an increase that canceled out the initial effect.

Another researcher, who went over the same ground, extended the time period to 10 weeks on

each side of the hanging and re-analyzed the data. He concluded that homicides rose after each execution; moreover, "for every 200 inches of newspaper coverage... there was one additional homicide within 10 weeks." Both conclusions have their difficulties. They were based on reports in The Times, not a mass circulation paper. They assume widespread adult literacy and ignore the effects of a wide variety of possible deterrent factors other than the death penalty.

More sophisticated studies have found a deterrent effect, and claim to have disentangled deterrence caused by the death penalty from deterrence caused by fear of arrest and conviction. These studies, based on American homicide statistics from 1935 onward and contrasting "executing" states with "non-executing" states, claim that each execution lowers the number of murders and may even reduce the number of robberies.

CRITICS have challenged these findings. One study claimed that if a five-year period was excluded

from the research, the deterrent effect simply disappeared. Others have targeted a more basic assumption, namely that each murder is the product of a rational decision to kill. What about homicides committed in the heat of the moment?

Some research cited by Hood is of even more dubious validity. One Saudi Arabian study claimed that the imposition of Islamic law, including the death penalty, was essential in transforming the country into a low-crime society.

Maybe so, but this conclusion "was based on the testimony of 22 aged persons about the state of crime before and after the establishment of the Saudi kingdom." Not very empirical.

Summing up this confusing picture, all that can be positively said is that the experts differ.

It appears that the death penalty has a limited effect in depressing the homicide rate - the research supporting this theory has not been entirely discredited - but it may not be the most important factor.

Return for a moment to our memorial in Devizes. The unfortunate woman was perceived to be a victim of divine intervention; her death was a validation of society's moral order that regard-

ed crime as a sin and death as a just reward.

I am not suggesting that a society should hang all its sinners. But when a shared moral vision defines a nation or a people, it does reduce crime.

In that context, the death penalty marks out murder as the supreme offense against the moral code. Without that context, it becomes an arbitrary punishment which can only be justified by results.

And what would be the results of the death penalty in Israel?

The most likely application of capital punishment is to terrorists, and it is argued that the terrorist seeks martyrdom, that the prospect of the noose will not deter him. But this may not be true in all cases.

Last month, Hamas member Sa'id Badarna received the death sentence for planning the Hadera bus bombing. His appeal is scheduled to be heard at the end of this month.

The threats Hamas made after the sentencing strongly suggest that in the shadowy quarters the terrorists inhabit, the regular use of capital punishment would be most unwelcome.

The writer is a legal commentator.

A real war in S. Lebanon

ARIEL SHARON

THERE'S a real day-and-night war going on in southern Lebanon. It is a clandestine war. It doesn't get much attention, and not much is written about it. When there are casualties, it is briefly recalled.

It is being fought in difficult conditions, among forbidding rocks, winding wadis, against a determined enemy.

As ever, the IDF Northern Command forces are exhibiting great ability, outstanding operational competence and great courage. But they and their excellent commanders have become tools in the hands of cynical politicians.

They possess immense power. But they cannot use it, not even in a controlled way. They are bound by the agreement with Hizbullah which prevents activity in civilian areas. These areas serve the terrorists as launching bases, lookout posts, planning centers. And they provide housing and a haven after their deadly attacks.

Now there is another reason for the IDF's powerlessness, and it is the main reason: the government wants an agreement with Hafez Assad at almost any price.

In Stockholm this week, the foreign minister admitted that "there are political considerations in using IDF forces in southern Lebanon."

These forces are now free to operate only in the security zone (except for special, isolated raids). There, under the agreement, their blood may, in effect, be spilled.

The terrorists in southern Lebanon, whose Palestinian component has recently grown, are learning IDF routines and operational methods, sitting safely in the villages or close to UNIFIL posts. As a result of their unobstructed observation of IDF units, they constantly change their modes of attack, and occasionally spring new surprises.

Our soldiers are better than they are, and our commanders infinitely superior. But the enemy has the initiative and dictates the course of our actions.

The IDF is making a mighty effort in the security zone, but the entire front remains static. To change this situation, we need to throw the enemy off balance, to send a shock through its ranks.

In the present situation, we can no longer do this by hitting at its roving units in the security zone. While success there is important, and inflicting casualties on the enemy is a mark of success, this in itself will not bring about any real change in the situation. Not even "precise, surgical" strikes, however accurate, will succeed in throwing the enemy off balance.

For this, we must keep the terrorists in a situation of constant insecurity, constant flight, in fear of encountering the IDF on their flanks, and the encirclement of the villages or the area in which they take refuge. We are talking of limited moves and frequent changes in tactics.

For obvious reasons, I cannot go into detail. But I can point to a large variety of ways to prevent the enemy securely positioning itself and force it to be constantly on the move, seeking new havens each day, and thus less able to to act.

This is what is meant by pushing the terrorists off balance, through limited, controlled moves.

TERRORISM in Lebanon, which is under Syrian occupation, is a weapon Assad uses to extract political concessions from Israel. This is grave, but understandable. However, it isn't only Assad who is using this terror to attain his political objectives. Prime Minister Rabin is also doing it. That's terrible, and incomprehensible.

Behind a heavy smokescreen, talks are being held with the Syrians. The gap between Rabin and Assad is very small. Both have already agreed that Israel will relinquish the Golan. Both have agreed on a three-year period to complete the withdrawal.

The premier wants an agreement before the 1996 elections to gain maximum advantage for himself and his party. He would like to defer the highly traumatic issue of evacuating settlements until after the election. Assad fears the results of elections in

Israel and wants most of the settlements and the area evacuated beforehand.

But the gaps are small. Between the Madrid embrace, the Oslo bows, and the Tokyo obedience, they will find a solution.

But the government has a problem. The Americans aren't wild about Israel's request that they dispatch troops to the Golan - and justly so. So how can our leaders go on misleading the public that security will be maintained by American soldiers? The game apparently needs another element - terrorism in Lebanon.

That is why the prime minister's signal from Tokyo that "anyone who thinks he has a military formula for solving the situation in Lebanon is wrong" is no coincidence.

All this is added to the government chorus which, one day, unanimously began singing: "In Lebanon, the only solution is political." And the sought-for political solution is, of course, the agreement with Syria, which means quitting the Golan.

So today, the government is demanding that every father and mother in Israel choose between jeopardizing their children's future by giving up the Golan, and endangering their children in the army today, by forcing them to fight in Lebanon with their hands tied.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

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Organized by

The Avraham Harman Institute of Contemporary Jewry, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Department of Organization and Community Relations of the World Zionist Organization

Monday, December 19, 1994

19:30 Opening Session - At Binyanei Ha'uma, Oren Hall 4

Prof. Haim Avni - Conference Chairperson.

Greetings: Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Arieh - Rector, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem;

Mr. Eli Eyal - Head, Department of Organization and Community Relations, WZO

Chronicle of Events: May - November 1967

Historical Perspectives on the Six-Day War

Evaluations: Prof. Eliezer Schweid; Prof. Shlomo Avineri; Prof. Moshe Lissak; Prof. Yehuda Bauer

"Jerusalem of Gold" - A Song Embracing the Jewish World: Dr. Natan Shahar

Tuesday, December 20, 1994 - Senate Hall, Mt. Scopus Campus

9:00-11:00 Session I:

The Six-Day War: Its Impact on Four Different Communities:

USA, USSR, FRANCE & MEXICO

11:30-13:30 Session II:

The Jewish Communities of the Communist Bloc: USSR, HUNGARY, ROMANIA & POLAND

14:30 - 16:30 Session III:

The English-Speaking Countries: AUSTRALIA, CANADA, USA & ENGLAND

17:00-18:00 Session IV:

The Impact on the Community in Argentina

19:30-21:00 EVENING SESSION:

at the Van Leer Institute

43 Jabotinsky St., Jerusalem

Jews in Islamic Countries in the Face of the Six-Day War

Chairperson: Mr. Shlomo Hillel, World Chairman of Keren Hayesod; Prof. Michael Abitbol, Prof. Amnon Netzer, Prof. Sasson Somech, Dr. Haim Sa'adon.

Wednesday, December 21, 1994 - Senate Hall, Mt. Scopus Campus

9:00-10:00 Session V: The Impact on the Community in France

10:30-12:30 Session VI:

The Aftermath of the Six-Day War: Socio-Political and Economic Perspectives

14:00-15:30 Session VII: Jewish Writers and the Six-Day War

16:00-18:00 Session VIII: The Six-Day War:

Its Effect on Contemporary Jewish Thought and Religious Streams

19:30-21:00 Reception and Closing Session: Beit Maersdorf,

Mt. Scopus Campus

The Jewish Establishment and Zionist Ideology:

Chairperson and Opening Remarks: Mr. Yehiel Leket, Acting Chairman of WZO and the Jewish Agency; Prof. Daniel Elazar;

Prof. Gideon Shimoni; Concluding Remarks: Prof. Haim Avni, Conference Chairperson.

Details and registration: Tel. 02-882466, 202417, 202577

News in Focus

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1994

They eat, they drink and boy do they gamble

The punters were dressed in jeans, but they had Midas's wallet, Raine Marcus reports

An earthquake could not have disturbed the concentration of two women who for three hours did not lift their eyes from the roulette table where they were placing bets.

But judging by the endless piles of green chips in front of the two jeans-clad and jewelry-becked women, they must have been doing better than a man in his 20s who, within half an hour, had bought and lost about NIS 7,000 worth of chips at a blackjack table in one of the illegal casinos in the Gush Dan area.

"People like to gamble and it's better they do it here than spend their money abroad in Turkey or Hungary. At least the money stays in the country," says one of the casino's owners, Moshe (not his real name), who wants gambling to be legalized here. "Look, we don't disturb anyone. Everything is run smoothly and quietly. There is no fuss and no violence."

Moshe, a pleasant, burly man in his 40s, believes it's just a matter of time before casinos are legalized.

"There should be government tenders for around four or five casinos with strict supervision. In most other democracies, gambling is legal," he says. "You can't change human nature."

Huge amounts of cash, enough to feed a few thousand hungry families, continually change hands at the casino, located in a ground-floor office in an industrial area. All money is carefully counted and registered by dealers and expensively dressed inspectors. Young men wearing jeans and leather jackets flick through thick wads of 100- and 200-shekel bills.

A heavy-set man in a mauve training suit and sports shoes takes thousands of dollars from a cheap cloth wallet to buy chips for the roulette table. Next to him stands a man dressed in an Yves St. Laurent jacket, perfectly pressed pants and polished, expensive shoes. He is more cautious, buying only \$300 worth of chips.

Another well-dressed man wearing a black kippa is totally absorbed in a blackjack game. Two hours later he is still in the same chair, lifting his eyes only to



exchange money or to order a drink from the waitress.

The air is filled with continual cries from dealers, croupiers and inspectors. "Haim owes a thousand! Five thousand over here! Thirty thousand to Manny!"

Someone asks Moshe how much credit to give Dudu. "As much as he wants," he replies. "Unlimited."

Yes, regular customers get credit or give checks. "It's just like any other business," says Moshe, who sends messengers to gamblers' homes to hand over winnings – or to collect debts.

ALTHOUGH SUCH joints are illegal, the front door is wide open, fluorescent lighting beams from the window. Crowds of people come and go, and there is even someone outside to direct the stream of luxury cars to parking in the otherwise deserted streets.

Any visions I had of a front

door with a peephole down a dark alley and a tough doorman demanding the password were soon dispelled when a young, slim doorman with a ponytail and cute smile asked if he could help me.

The hall is a bit dingy, with little in the way of decoration, and very smoky. Two pictures adorn the plain white walls – one

of a scantily clad woman lying provocatively on a couch, and the other of a kissing couple. Moshe says that, compared to other casinos in town, his is "luxurious." A faded mauve carpet on the floor, darker mauve satin curtains and a few dusky pink velvet sofas on one side leave room for more than 100 people, mostly unshaven men.

Apart from the two women at the roulette table, the only other females there are a couple of gamblers' wives or girlfriends, dealers and this reporter. Nobody speaks to me, looks at me or bothers me. Where else can a young woman go after midnight and not get harassed?

Food and drink is on the house, and waitresses bring

around huge plates of fruit and small cups of black coffee or mint tea. Endless supplies of pitot, salads and cold drinks are brought to a buffet table. American cigarettes are also free. And everyone seems to smoke. At around 2 a.m., Moshe orders a huge pile of pitot filled with meat and salad.

"It costs us \$18,000 daily to keep this place," he says. "But look how many people we keep in business. Bakeries, restaurants, taxi drivers, messengers. We pay salaries of waitresses, croupiers and dealers."

Qualified dealers, he says, are brought over from Britain and Hungary. The gamblers speak little English, croupiers only a smattering of Hebrew – but you don't have to be a linguistics major to count, so everyone seems to understand each other.

"OK, place your bets. No more. *Lo yoter*," shouts a muscular dealer from England with a Cockney accent.

He takes advantage of the punters' poor English to deliver the occasional derogatory remark. "Hey shorty, yeah, you. Get your bleeding act together," he sneered at one fellow, and to another: "Bloody hell, are you always such a pain?"

FIVE INSPECTORS are assigned to watch over each table. "See, there is no dirty business here. No stealing. Everything is managed correctly and above board," says Moshe, who wanders around talking to punters and supervising proceedings.

Moshe is proud of his business management. "There are no arguments here. If two people claim they've won, we split the winnings."

And all the time thick wads of money are counted speedily and professionally, passed to dealers and exchanged for chips in different colors. One thousand, two thousand, three, four, five, the dealer counts it again. A personal check for NIS 300,000 is given for a gambling debt.

According to Moshe, Israelis spend vast amounts in casinos abroad, but are fed up with traveling and would rather gamble close to home.

Even so, he organizes gambling trips to Turkey and Hungary. Gamblers promise to spend a minimum – usually about \$7,000 over a weekend – in return for free hotel accommodation and flight. Casinos abroad are often owned or managed by Israelis.

Here it costs a minimum NIS 100 for a chip for the blackjack table and only NIS 10 for a roulette chip. But punters don't settle for less than a pile.

"We get people from all walks of life here," says Moshe. "Doctors, lawyers, professionals. Businessmen. And the religious."

Moshe is not fazed by the prospect of paying taxes if gambling is legalized. "Why not? Everyone can enjoy their cat. At the moment the state is forcing people to go to Turkey and Hungary. Why should those countries benefit? Profits from gambling here can cover the security budget."

The police say they have other priorities, but still pay visits to illegal casinos from time to time. Moshe has adopted a philosophical attitude to police raids. "Of course police visits disturb us, but they can't stop this phenomenon."

He doesn't resent police interference but rather sees raids as an occupational hazard. "The police are just doing their job. But they can't arrest everyone. They would have to come with buses just to pile everyone in. They usually arrest organizers, dealers and a few players, and then release them on bail. Gamblers will keep coming back. It's a sickness."

The punishment for 'forbidden games'

GAMBLING offenses are classed as a misdemeanor carrying a maximum three-year prison sentence for organizers. Gamblers themselves are subject to a maximum 12-month sentence and a fine.

But in fact, says criminal lawyer Eli Cohen of Tel Aviv, no one is sent to jail for such offenses, and courts are lenient, usually suspending prison sentences or just levying fines.

"I don't know of anyone – gambler or organizer – who has served a prison sentence for gambling offenses," he says.

The law defines "forbidden games" as "games in which a person may win money according to the

games' results which are dependent on luck more than understanding or capability."

The owner of premises used for gambling may also be imprisoned for three years, and someone who rents out his premises knowing they will be used for gambling or lotteries is subject to a maximum six-month sentence, Cohen says.

A city's police chief has the authority to close down a casino but organizers can petition a district court to cancel the order.

Gamblers and organizers alike stand to lose money. Police may seize moneys found at a casino, and courts may issue a confiscation order.

R.M.

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Police: We're not in the business of curing gambling addicts

THOUGH casinos are raided from time to time, police say unofficially that illegal gambling joints are not their first priority.

"These gamblers are sick people," said one senior officer who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The police don't treat sicknesses."

Since gambling is a misdemeanor and not a crime police do not request remands in custody.

But as long as gambling is illegal here police are obliged to enforce the law, even though they have murders, armed robberies and drug trafficking cases to solve.

The main gambling center is in Tel Aviv. Chief Superintendent Danny Avimeir, head of the central unit's detective division, estimates there is a hard core of four or five casinos which continue operating even after a raid. They convene in industrial zones, since there are no neighbors to complain about disturbances.

The rest are held in residential buildings and tend to move around a lot," says Avimeir.

He could not say how many such casinos there are in the city, but other officers estimated around 25-30. Avimeir says he has no idea of the amounts of cash turned over by organizers, "but after organizers pay ex-

penses, they are left with huge amounts of untaxable cash," he says.

Police, he says, usually arrest organizers, dealers and a few gamblers but do not have the manpower to apprehend 200.

Detectives confiscate equipment such as roulette wheels and chips, as well as money believed to be proceeds of gambling, until the case reaches court.

Now professional organizers tend to use credit slips to avoid keeping large sums on the premises, in case of a raid.

Avimeir does not recall a court ever having jailed an offender.

Another officer says that casinos and their managers provide sources of information for police.

"Whenever there are large sums of black money around, this can lead to other crimes such as drug smuggling," he says. "We know exactly who is operating what and where."

But gambling debts are not usually collected using criminal or violent methods, he adds.

In the past police have visited casinos but instead of arresting anyone, have simply listed names of those present.

Lists may later be used as intelligence information.

R.M.

Joint patrols open road to coexistence

Their relations may be tense, but cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian police is becoming an important symbol of the Cairo accords, Bill Hutman reports

LAST winter, Iyub Mula of the Border Police was chasing Palestinian terrorists and stone-throwing youths in Khan Yunis.

At about the same time, thousands of kilometers away in Algeria, Inspector Ahmed al-Husseini of the Palestine Liberation Army was training to fight the "Zionist occupiers of Palestine."

In a year, however, both have come further than either could have imagined.

Late Monday night this week, the two told jokes around a pot of simmering coffee on an open fire, along with other Palestinian and Israeli policemen on duty at the Netzarim junction in Gaza.

"I used to look at these guys [the Palestinians] only as our enemies," said First Sgt.-Maj. Mula, 38. "But over the last eight months, my feelings have slowly changed. It's taken time, but now I feel comfortable with them. I feel good drinking a cup of coffee with them."

"I still want the end of the occupation. I want the Israelis to leave Gaza," said Hussein, 35. "But we can work together for now."

The next morning, Mula and Hussein, the senior commanders in the field, were on duty for a second shift.

The Palestinian and Israeli policemen — largely Border Police but including a small contingent of blue-uniformed Israeli Police officers — serve on the Joint Ra-

trols and Mobile Units set up under the Cairo Accord, "to ensure free, unimpeded and secure movement along the roads" used by both Palestinians and settlers in the autonomous areas.

Their responsibilities are heavy. Critics, from within the Border Police and Palestinian police, say the joint patrols contribute little to security on the roads. Stonings of Israeli vehicles and terror continue; four soldiers were killed last month in two attacks at the Netzarim junction.

However, even the critics agree that the day-to-day cooperation between Palestinian and Israeli police and army officers is invaluable in building trust and communication between the two sides.

It is also generally agreed that the patrols have a positive psychological or "symbolic" effect on both populations. Since May, Gaza Palestinians and settlers have watched as Palestinian and Israeli policemen work together each day, despite confrontations and violence in the field, and obstacles at the negotiating table.

"I'm a soldier," said Mula, from a Druze village in Galilee. "I'm not here to talk politics, but to do my duty."

Jews and Druze share duties in the patrols. Many, but not all of the Israeli police on the joint patrols are Arabic-speakers, and all underwent special training.



The joint patrols were set up 'to ensure free, unimpeded and secure movement along the roads' used by both Palestinians and settlers in the autonomous areas. (Isaac Harari)

Politics, however, often came up in the conversations between the two sides, Mula admitted.

"There is no way to avoid it. One minute something happens, there's an attack somewhere. It's

on all of our minds." It's at these moments when the fragile nature of relations be-

tween the two forces is most obvious.

But Mula cut the conversation short when asked by a reporter about his, and his Palestinian counterpart's, political views.

The issue of politics — even apparently nonpolitical matters such as their relations with area settlers and Palestinian residents — made Hussein pause for some time, as he glanced at Mula. The Israeli categorically refused to answer any questions with even the remotest connection to politics.

But, as Mula had commented, politics constantly intervened, sometimes making work together difficult.

During one week last month, four soldiers were killed at the junction manned by Mula and Hussein. (The two were not there at the time of the attacks.)

Among the injured in the deadliest of the attacks — in which three soldiers were killed by a Palestinian suicide bomber riding a bicycle — were two Border Policemen serving on the Joint Patrol.

They were at the Israeli outpost badly damaged by the explosion.

Tractors this week began finishing the stronger fortifications — giant cement blocks and sandbags — for the outpost, with a tower in the middle.

Across the street, the Palestinian outpost remains as it has been since May: several cement blocks closing of a small area, shaded by black tarpaulin, resembling a Beduin tent.

At the intersection, a Palestinian policeman leans on a large cement block, directing traffic. Most of the traffic is Palestinian.

Several times a day, a motorcade led by an army jeep drives through, leading Israeli vehicles to the settlement of Netzarim.

The Border Police and Palestinian Police are in direct radio contact from their two outposts at the junction. At one point on Tuesday morning, speaking in Arabic, an Israeli policeman contacted his Palestinian counterpart.

"Have you checked that white vehicle stopped at the side of the intersection?" the Israeli policeman asked, with both sides on the alert for possible car bombs.

"He's just run out of gas," the Palestinian policeman replied.

The incident may have appeared trite. But it offered an example of perhaps the most important function of the Joint Patrols and Mobile Units. If Israel alone secured the roads, such an incident could easily have turned

into a major confrontation, pitting IDF soldiers against a Palestinian mob.

On Tuesday, a Palestinian policeman simply walked up to the Palestinian driver and asked if he needed help. The Israeli policemen kept their distance.

Sometimes the policemen from each side walk over to the other's base to discuss operations, sometimes just to chat. Mula said the Israeli contingent often offers its extra food rations to the Palestinians.

Several times a day, the two sides patrol the approximately four kilometers between the Karni checkpoint into the Strip and the Netzarim junction. The IDF jeep leads and a Palestinian Police command car follows, as is called for in the Cairo Accord for roads leading to settlements under Israeli control.

Each vehicle is manned with four armed policemen from its side and flies an orange flag to identify it as a Joint Patrol.

Joint Patrols also operate in four other areas of Gaza where Palestinian and Israeli traffic mix, as well as on the main road through Jericho which also serves Israeli through traffic between Jerusalem and the north.

After the redeployment of the IDF elsewhere in the administered territories, the Joint Patrols and Mobile Units are slated to be greatly expanded to secure the many roads used by both populations.

"The Joint Patrols are not supposed to be Mobile Fighting Units [which patrol the borders]," said Col. Ya'acov Elhayani, Israeli commander of the District Coordination Office (DCO) in north Gaza. "They're supposed to keep the peace, to make sure civil quarrels that erupt between Palestinians and Israelis do not explode into larger incidents."

Col. Salem Abu Rasan, the Palestinian commander of the north Gaza DCO, said that the DCOs, Joint Patrols and Mobile Units offered an important channel of communication between the two sides.

Rasan sat in a mobile home turned office directly across from a similar structure which served Elhayani, at their joint headquarters near Erez Checkpoint.

A PLO flag and an Israeli flag flew side by side in the middle of the small square between their offices.

"Before we were at war and fighting each other, and now we are fighting together for peace," said Abu Rasan. The latter, he said, "is much more difficult."

An indispensable ally bleeds heavily in a war of attrition

REPORTS of the South Lebanon Army's demise are not only exaggerated but are likely to assist Hizbullah in its war against the SLA.

"A debate on the SLA's role and future is unavoidable and natural," says a very senior Northern Command officer. "But unless someone proposes an alternative, I see no point in dwelling on the SLA; rather, we should help them to help us."

The SLA is bleeding. It is demoralized, its morale and motivation have inevitably been depleted by a seemingly endless war of attrition. It is losing its best officers and soldiers in daily battles against Hizbullah, which in the last year has devised a sophisticated strategy of undermining it.

Some in the IDF view the SLA as a limited fighting unit of inferior quality, unable to deflect Hizbullah for long. The SLA has legitimate doubts as to whether it will be compromised by Israel in a future settlement with Lebanon.

"The SLA is now experiencing a fierce and painful psychological onslaught against it," says a senior government official monitoring Lebanese affairs. "Hizbullah is not only attacking and killing, but is saying that the SLA comprises a gang of collaborators with Israel. They are instilling

unsettling thoughts in the minds of SLA people of what may happen the day after Israel withdraws.

"The Syrians construe SLA activities as defiance of Syria's powerbroker status in Lebanon, and the semi-sovereign Lebanese government is portraying them as outcasts," the official says. "On top of that, they feel that in Israel they are perceived as a combination of cannon fodder for the IDF and a loose cannon that can entangle Israel where it need not get involved."

Israel faces a dilemma in defining its relationship with the SLA, senior officers say.

On the one hand, Israel doesn't want to admit that the SLA is doing its dirty work for it, especially when the human price exacted is high. But that is very much the truth, regardless of the price the IDF itself is paying.

"The plain truth is that every SLA soldier killed would and could have been an IDF soldier killed had the SLA not existed," says a General Staff officer. "We owe them just as much as we tend to think they owe us."

To resolve the dilemma, Israel must maintain a fine balance between several variables — its own policy in South Lebanon, the predominantly Shi'ite population in the south, the SLA itself, Hizbullah and peace negotiations with Syria.

The SLA's demoralization over recent Hizbullah attacks is not made easier by its feeling a lack of appreciation from Israel, Alon Pinkas writes

Even the SLA's critics say it is irreplaceable as an Israeli proxy, both politically and militarily, as long as political affairs in Lebanon are dictated by Damascus and the Lebanese government in Beirut is unable to effectively extend its control to the south.

Since the SLA is an indispensable ally and the environment in South Lebanon is not likely to change soon, Israel's prime policy objective is to strengthen the SLA to counterbalance Hizbullah.

The contemporary SLA may be Israel's creation and proxy, but it evolved out of indigenous interests in the mid-1970s. To defend South Lebanon against the PLO's entrenchment there as

the country's civil war erupted, Maj. Sa'ad Haddad, a Maronite Christian, organized a militia.

In February 1984, Haddad died and was replaced by Gen. Antoine Lahad. The 3,000-man, predominantly Christian SLA, under the IDF's direct command (SLA company and battalion commanders were IDF officers), was then responsible for patrols and roadblocks.

The period following Israel's withdrawal in 1985 and the establishment of the security zone marked the collapse of the SLA.

Its four territorial infantry battalions, one tank battalion and one artillery battalion were incapable of maintaining their positions against mounting attacks

from Hizbullah, which was formed following Israel's 1982 invasion and backed financially by Iran and militarily by Syria.

The SLA was then reorganized and its roles expanded in 1988. The security zone's population is 150,000, mostly villagers, with a clear Shi'ite majority. Since the early 1990s, the SLA's ethnic composition has been transformed, and it now has a Shi'ite majority among its approximately 2,900 officers and soldiers, especially in the central sector of the security zone.

"It is a fact of life that Shi'ites outnumber Christians. They are portrayed as fighting against their Hizbullah brethren, but they know that they are defending

their homes," says the senior government official. In fact, one of the brigade commanders is a Shi'ite, as is the head of the SLA's security service, Riyad Abdallah.

For every family member serving in the SLA, another gets a permit to work in Israel. Desertions are surprisingly low. Maintaining the SLA has cost Israel NIS 48.1 million this year.

Hizbullah's attempts to undermine the SLA by playing the ethnic factor, accompanied by daily attacks, roadside bombs and shelling, is probably the SLA's biggest current problem.

Last week eight SLA soldiers were killed; four were killed last month; and six were killed in April.

But the SLA's problems are not confined to confronting Hizbullah or low morale. Israel's increased military activity in Lebanon during the week, in which a

Golani officer, Ariel Ovadya, was killed, were meant to show the SLA that Israel does not expect them to be killed for its interests.

This leads to a broader political issue, the future of the SLA in the context of Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese agreements on Lebanon.

In all peace negotiations with the Lebanese, Uri Lubrani has asserted Israel's unequivocal conditions for an agreement — Hizbullah be disarmed, as were other militias, the SLA be fully integrated into Lebanon's army, and the south become integrated into the political system with no retributions and retributions.

But although Israel has been persistent and adamant in its demands, the SLA has been an integral part of the Israel-Syria-Lebanon-Hizbullah game for too long to believe that such a future can in any way be guaranteed.

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Tax or no tax – only Rabin knows the answer

The government's latest domestic challenge is a result of the controversy over the capital gains tax, Dan Izenberg writes

WILL he or won't he? Even Prime Minister Rabin doesn't know yet whether he will implement the capital gains tax law as scheduled on January 1, or postpone or revoke the controversial legislation.

That's not the only thing Rabin doesn't know at this point. Neither he nor his colleagues know whether the Labor Party will sustain more electoral damage by proceeding with the law than by reneging on it.

One thing that is certain, however, is that the entire affair – from Rabin's unambiguous promise not to impose a capital gains tax, to his about-face a few months later, to the second thoughts of the past few days – has hurt the party.

As far as Finance Minister Avraham Shohat is concerned, if the government reneges on the bill, the results not only will be, but will deserve to be, catastrophic. "A government and political parties which do not stand behind fundamental decisions, a government and political parties which act according to public opinion polls, cannot manage the affairs of state," he told the Knesset on Wednesday.

Shohat is not the only one who sees the issue this way. Knesset House Committee chairman Hagai Merom said it was a matter of the government's integrity not to back down from a law it

fought so hard to pass only three weeks earlier.

Nevertheless, it could be that Shohat is doing Rabin, his close friend, an injustice by turning the fight over the tax into a moral issue, or a question of what true leadership is all about.

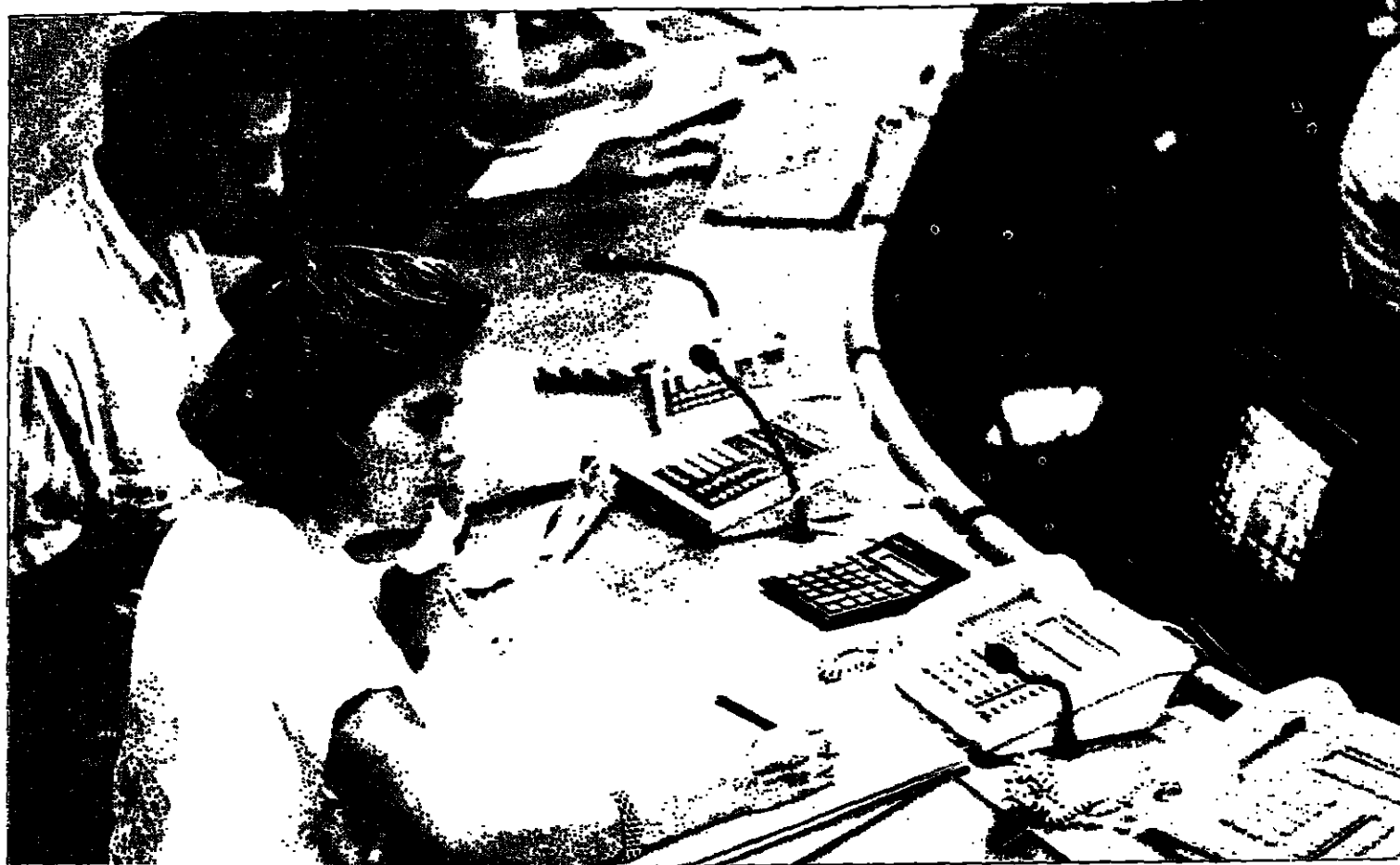
It is true that his most outspoken rival on the question of the law's future, Economics Minister Shimon Shetreet, has contributed to the perception of the issue as a choice between principle and opportunism.

Shetreet told a Labor faction meeting this week that "there is no public support for the law, so we will not be able to [go ahead with] implementing it."

Another of the law's challengers, Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zivili, said this week that electoral calculations were one of the reasons for reconsidering the bill. "I see nothing wrong with the prime minister taking political considerations into account," he said.

THE PRESS has also contributed its share to this perception. One report this week said Rabin decided to reconsider the law after surveys taken by his personal pollster indicated his popularity had plummeted from the moment he announced the plan to impose the tax last summer.

Rabin has not said publicly why he wants to reconsider the law before it goes into effect. But



The stock exchange will play a role in the prime minister's strategic domestic goal, the economy's privatization. (Ariel Jerozinski)

according to one theory, it has nothing to do with the elections.

Rabin, the theory goes, has a strategic domestic goal – the privatization of the economy. The stock exchange will have to play a crucial role in this process, replacing the government as the key generator of capital.

The prime minister also seeks social justice and believes that the capital gains tax is just. If he has to choose between the goals, however, he

will choose the former.

The theory tallies with a public statement by Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish earlier this week. Harish said the key economic issue is not the capital gains tax, but the possibility of a recession if the growth of the past few years grinds to a halt.

As 1994 draws to a close, growth is threatened by high interest rates, an overvalued shekel, an under-invested stock market and spiraling costs of raw

materials, Harish said.

The capital gains tax is only one element, and by no means the most important, in the list of factors affecting the situation.

"I have talked to Rabin several times recently in the broad perspective, but not about the tax," Harish said. "He's worried about the situation, but has not yet adopted a position."

SHETREET SAID his opposition to the tax stemmed in part

from his concern for the common man. He rejected Shohat's claim that only 20 percent of stock market investments are made by small-time investors.

"That's propaganda," said Shetreet. "Everyone invests in the market either directly or indirectly. In urging a postponement of the tax, I am representing the common man. If, by doing so, I am also safeguarding the party's electoral interests, that is no reason to reject my call."

Shetreet was visibly impatient with questions about why he has come out in opposition to the law only now. "What difference does that make?" he replied. "What's better? To correct a mistake or dig yourself deeper into it?"

But not everyone is convinced the motives of Shetreet, or Police and Energy Minister Moshe Shohat (another opponent of the law), are so lofty. Shohat said as much, without naming names, when he told the Knesset "some ministers are genuinely worried, but others are motivated by completely extraneous considerations."

One source close to Shohat said Shohat wants to create an uproar in the cabinet to pressure Rabin into compensating him for the loss of the Energy portfolio to Yit'ud's Gonen Segev.

Shetreet, on the other hand, hopes Shohat will resign over suspension of the law. Shohat will then go to the Treasury, and Shetreet will finally get a significant portfolio at the Police Ministry.

Nevertheless, neither Shohat nor Shetreet could influence Rabin into rethinking the law, the aide added. The culprit is Shimon Sheves, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office. He is the only one with unhindered access to the prime minister.

He also hates Shohat, and is allegedly friends with those who stand to lose badly from the law – contractors, brokers and businessmen. These are the people who will finance his campaign in the next Labor Party primaries, the aide said.

Whatever the cause of the current confusion over the status of the law – be it unprincipled populism, high-minded economic concerns or political back-stabbing – one thing is certain: The law's future hinges on the decision of one man – Yitzhak Rabin.

No piranhas in the Kinneret? Try fishing in the Knesset

THOSE toothy fish cruising the Kinneret were not piranhas after all. But in the Knesset, where their existence has always been taken for granted, the snapping of sharp little teeth at Prime Minister Rabin's tail was distinctly audible. In fact, it could be heard all the way from Oslo to Tokyo.

Cabinet piranhas pounced on the capital gains tax in a feeding frenzy. It was electoral suicide, "perhaps just and fair, but untimely."

On the stock exchange, the government's future hung in the balance alongside the fate of the tax, due to become effective next month. "Rabin will reconsider and revoke the tax," hinted one of his aides. The market soared. "Not so," said Finance Minister Shohat. Shares plummeted.

For two whole days Shohat, the tax's midwife, tried frantically to get Rabin on the phone. He desperately needed to rein in the other ministers by getting an assurance that the prime minister was still on his side and the tax, Shohat's baby, would be delivered no matter what.

Rabin was in another car, on

the way to Oslo airport, Eitan Haber said on a mobile phone. Oops! Sorry Baiga, the prime minister has already taken off for Tokyo.

In Tokyo, as the Israeli press corps reveled in the delights of the world's greatest technological powerhouse, zinging words by the zillion home on the infobahn, the only phone apparently not working was the one in the presidential suite allocated to the prime minister by his hosts.

After contact was briefly established, there were still no assurances for poor Shohat. The prime minister would return to being a local prime minister only when he got home. Like all leaders, Rabin expects foreign trips to focus on the statesmanlike grandeur of the occasion, not on spats in the home pond.

DONKEY'S FUNERAL

Meanwhile, another controversial bill due to hit a stunned public on January 1 – the national health insurance act – was granted a donkey's funeral by the most senior commentators and public opinion leaders.

Histadrut bigwigs couldn't believe their eyes as they unfurled



Ramon: His national health insurance act received a donkey's funeral. (Beny Birk)

their newspapers. The most respected economic and political columnists, who had lavished indiscriminate praise on Haim Ramon's wonderful reforms – especially the health law, for which he quit the cabinet – had also caught piranha fever and were now tearing it to shreds.

THE WEEK THAT WAS

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Especially quoted with awe in Histadrut corridors of power this week was the column of *Ha'aretz's* economic editor Nehemia Strassler. Headlined "A Bad Law," word-surgeon Strassler sliced simply and concisely through the health law. He explained why it is bad, why it will be a failure and why it was wrong to nationalize our health services, which were admired and emulated by Western democracies.

So who's missing from this rip-it-all-up-and-start-again party? Has anyone seen the Likud?

It seems that while Rabin was studying the niceties of Japanese etiquette, especially enigmatic silences, the Israeli right may have been studying the British left.

In the London parliament, the Labor opposition sat back smiling while the ruling Conservatives ripped themselves and their prime minister apart and the opinion polls plunged in admiration.

Meanwhile in Jerusalem, the Likud opposition sat back while



Shohat: Still waiting for assurance from Rabin regarding stock tax. (Suzie Harari)

the ruling Laborites ripped themselves and their leader apart and the opinion polls plunged.

The closer the capital gains and the health laws approached, the lower indeed did Rabin and Labor sink in the polls. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu rose.

Effortlessly.

"It's obvious today that Ramon has fed us all one big loksh," said a senior Likud source. "Likud was in favor of detaching the health system from politics and supported the law – to stop the Histadrut getting its extortion fees from Kupat Holim."

"However, Likud is now gravely concerned by the failure to prepare the law properly. We are upset by the elimination of competition among the health funds."

"And then there's that Bolshevik organization tax they're cooking up for us," the source added. "It's just another road back to the old Mapainik way of life. We've been deceived."

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Likud MKs Tsahi Hanegbi, Menahem Begin and Dan Meridor avoided fishy themes but found themselves in bed with some feathery fowl this week. In defending the status of the High Court of Justice they found themselves flocking together with the super-doves of Meretz and Labor – Dedi Zucker and Eli Goldschmidt.

It happened in the Knesset Constitution Committee, where Shas and the National Religious Party savaged the High Court for its ruling in support of pay rights.

The NRP's Yigal Bibi suggested limiting Supreme Court judges' term of office to five years, with a reviewable option of a further five. The review effectively would be at the discretion of – who else – politicians.

"We won't permit the Supreme Court to run amok," thundered Shas's Shlomo Benizri, who has been campaigning to block Justice Aharon Barak's candidacy for Supreme Court president.

HOW TO LOSE NIS 8 MILLION

Delegates from 124 worldwide trade unions cooled their heels in a hall in Brussels as they waited two hours for Palestinian leaders to show up and sign an already initiated joint accord with the Histadrut. The marriage included an NIS 8 million dowry for the

Palestinian trade unions. Histadrut leaders Haim Ramon, Amir Peretz and foreign relations chairman Jacques Neriah were there in their best suits, but remained like grooms jilted at the huppa.

With embarrassed mutters, the guests wondered about the outbreak of collective cold feet, especially since the ketuba had been initiated by no less a godfather than Yasser Arafat himself. Rumors abounded of threats from radical groups opposed to the shotgun peace process.

The Palestinians lost the NIS 8 million which the Histadrut had agreed to pay them for organization taxes deducted from the wages of the Palestinian workers in Israel from September 1993 to the end of this year.

The Autonomy also missed its chance for international recognition. Had they signed, they immediately would have been asked to join 60 international trade union organizations. Neriah said.

Furthermore, the Histadrut and Palestinians were to have worked out how much the Histadrut owes them for deductions since 1970. This also was to be returned, partly in cash and partly in services.

The Histadrut is now letting the Palestinians stew.

"For years they complained about the money we owe them, said Neriah.

"It's a lot of money and it could have helped them. We don't want to interfere in their internal politics. But we haven't closed the doors."

So where's the pact? "At the moment? It's in my drawer."

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GOP chairmen: Aid to Israel safe - for now

The voters told Capitol Hill to cut everywhere, but the new power brokers draw the line at the Middle East. Hillel Kuttler spoke to three of them

THERE are many powerful Republicans who draw fewer headlines than Senator Jesse Helms, but who concur with his call to reexamine America's foreign aid programs.

Three of them recently asserted that, Helms's pronouncements aside, they are the ones who control the purse strings. And they say Israel's aid package will remain unchanged.

"I always take seriously what Sen. Helms says, but as a practical matter, foreign aid is done by the foreign operations subcommittee of [the] appropriations [committee]. That is the reality of the way we operate," explained Kentucky's Mitch McConnell, when asked how Helms's recent remarks might affect this year's foreign aid bills.

When Congress reconvenes in January, McConnell will head the subcommittee, which fashions the foreign aid bill.

"The opinion of the chairman of the foreign relations committee about these issues is significant, but it's kind of unrelated to

what we do on the appropriations committee in terms of crafting this measure," he said.

Helms kindled a firestorm last month by calling foreign aid wasteful and directing his fury at US expenditures for the UN and the Middle East peace process.

Though Helms had often expressed that opinion before, the recent remarks were notable for coming one day after a national election that resulted in Helms's elevation to the chairmanship of the Senate international - formerly foreign - relations committee.

It turns out that Helms articulated what other, less vocal, chairmen believe.

REPUBLICANS and even some Democrats now agree that last month's election not only shook Capitol Hill by transferring power to the GOP but also sent a clear message to legislators: Cut spending and cut it now.

That message, the legislators say, extends across the government budget.



Robert Livingston, of Louisiana, incoming House appropriations committee chairman: Israel's and Egypt's foreign aid is secure, but Congress will want to know where the money is going.

"I think it's quite possible for the foreign aid pie in general, for all accounts, to shrink," said incoming House appropriations

committee chairman Robert Livingston of Louisiana. "To think that things will continue as they always have in terms of dollars is

not to face the reality of the last election. "But by the same token, I ask you not to be Chicken Little.

Let's not go out and say the sky is falling. The world does not come to an end."

The bottom line, Livingston said, is that both Israel's \$3 billion and Egypt's \$2.1b. annual foreign aid packages are secure for now. But financial constraints mean that all recipients are up for examination.

"I think the events of the last election are going to make people more aware of federal expenditures," said Pennsylvania's Arlen Specter, who will sit on the Senate foreign operations subcommittee while also chairing the intelligence committee.

"I think Democrats are going to read the election results as much as Republicans."

McConnell, Specter and Livingston expect the Republican-led Congress to examine more closely where foreign aid funds are going.

McConnell said the litmus test should now be whether a country's receipt of aid is in the US national interest.

Cuts in the overall \$13.7b. foreign aid package "will force a greater focus on where our real priorities are, and my view is that the Middle East is a top priority," said McConnell, who opposes cuts in Israel's and Egypt's aid.

"I would also state the newly independent states of the former Soviet Union in that category."

"And I think we will have to realize the savings we try to achieve in foreign assistance at the expense of those parts of the world where we frankly don't have a major interest."

Africa and Latin America fall into that category, McConnell said, adding: "Not that I don't care what goes on there."

McConnell also said he intends to change the way funds are allocated to foreign recipients by "earmarking" them on a country-by-country basis.

In the last two years under a Democratic Congress and White House, funds were not earmarked, thereby allowing the Clinton administration to determine foreign aid allocations.

McConnell's plan would effectively set aside the funds for Israel - which Israel's supporters here favor - and Egypt.

It also represents an institutional and partisan challenge to the Democratic administration, noted one Capitol Hill observer.

Indeed, McConnell announced this week that he would introduce a bill to cut \$800m. in aid to Africa.

In sum, McConnell's bill would slash the \$13.7b. aid total by 20 percent, to \$10.96b. That would leave Israel and Egypt with nearly half of the entire pie.

AT THE same time, the three men were hesitant about cutting off aid to the Palestinians. They said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's political predicament should not be judged rashly by the US.

And Livingston, who has been an advocate of US missile defense programs, supports continued funding of the Israeli-American Arrow program despite US fiscal constraints.

"We want to see some move toward deployment," he said. "The Arrow is supplemental to our own program and there is an exchange of technology going on" in the project. "It's in our mutual interest to develop [it] as quickly as possible, and to deploy as quickly as possible."

The senators stated unequivocally that - budget crunch or not - they cannot conceive of providing financial aid to Syria, even if it signs a peace treaty with Israel. "I think the possibilities of providing tax dollars for Syria are slim and none, given Syria's history," McConnell said.

"In return for a genuine peace, it might be possible for Syria to be removed from the list of terror states and treated as a normal part of the international community. That's something the Syrians can achieve."

Said Specter of the likelihood of the US sending aid to Damascus: "I think that's entirely premature."

The basis of Shvil Hazahav: Support of peace and Orthodoxy

THE values of Orthodox Judaism and the goals of the peace process can coexist. That's the premise of Shvil Hazahav (The Golden Mean), which goes one step further and calls on American Orthodox Jews to participate in the peace process.

At the forefront of the group of about 20 Orthodox rabbis, who formed the organization last October, is Rabbi Shmuel Goldin, who says "the only voices... being heard in the United States within the Orthodox community are those unalterably and completely opposed to the current peace process." However, there is a constituency within Orthodoxy that is sympathetic to the process.

Goldin lays the blame for the notion of a uniform Orthodox opinion squarely on organized American Orthodox groups. These have been paralyzed by internal divisions, he says, or have abdicated their voices to what he calls the extreme right. The complexity of the issues and the conditions of the debate have favored the ascendancy of the right.

"It's very hard to passionately vocalize... moderation," he says. "It's a lot easier to get out on the corner and say, 'They're traitors.'"

For 10 years, Goldin has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood, New Jersey, a wealthy community a few kilometers west of Manhattan. He first came to the attention of a wide segment of American Jewry last February when some Jewish newspapers published his essay "Swimming Against the Tide: An American Orthodox Rabbi's Reflections on the Peace Process."

Since the Rabin-Arafat handshake on the White House lawn, Goldin wrote, he felt "increasingly isolated within the leadership of the American Orthodox community," as the naysayers were speaking for the Orthodox.

The essay hit a nerve, and Goldin was overwhelmed by the responses, both positive and negative. "There was a tremendous vacuum that I was being sucked into. I feel at times I put my finger in the whirlpool. I didn't wake up one morning and say: How can I become the center of controversy in Bergen County?"

Shvil Hazahav had an unexpected debut in October, well before the group was prepared to go public. As Goldin was canvassing colleagues in search of like-minded members of the Orthodox community, he suddenly found there was a spate of publicity

A group of American Orthodox rabbis sympathetic to the peace process is making waves in the US, Marilyn Henry reports from New York

about his plans. Many of the group's opinions were misrepresented or taken out of context, Goldin says.

Although the group qualifies its positions, its entry into the arena has been welcomed by some American peace activists.

"I think they are an important, positive force," Gary Rubin, executive director of Americans for Peace Now, says of Shvil Hazahav, although the groups have different positions and emphasize different things.

CONTENDING that the Arab-Israeli peace process has led to a "frightening polarization" within the Jewish community, Shvil Hazahav says it was founded because of the need for "reasoned dialogue." The group says it is committed to the tenets of religious Zionism and recognizes "the legitimate needs and con-

cerns of the Orthodox community in Israel, particularly those living within Gaza, Judea, Samaria and the Golan."

With the leeway granted by broadly defined principles, Shvil Hazahav is a coalition of people from different points on the political spectrum. Its rabbinic advisory board includes Rabbi Maurice Lamm of Yeshiva University and Rabbi Marc Angel and Haskel Lookstein of New York. In Israel, Rabbi Yehuda Amital and Aharon Lichtenstein of Yeshivat Har Etzion are among the supporters.

"We are not knee-jerk Labor supporters," says David Jacobowitz, a New York businessman who is a lay leader of Shvil Hazahav. "We have differences with the Labor government, as we do with the Likud."

In addition to helping to shape the peace process, Shvil Hazahav

could help address other concerns. First is what Goldin terms a practical matter: By failing to engage the government in a "supportive" way, the Orthodox could be relegated to the periphery of Israeli political life. If the Diaspora Orthodox community spends its time "screaming and chanting against a peace process we are unwilling to accept, then we will marginalize our community beyond repair," he says.

Goldin and his cohorts have had private meetings with Israeli

officials in New York, including Prime Minister Rabin. While Goldin has welcomed the Israeli attention, he stresses, "We're committed to maintaining our independence. We don't want to be perceived as or to become the Orthodox arm of the [Israeli] government here in America."

The American Orthodox community is not monolithic, and nor is interpretation of Halacha. The organization recognizes "that our relationship to the Land of Israel must be guided by Torah law and rabbinic mandate." However, Goldin says, what distinguishes Shvil Hazahav is its willingness to accept halachic alternatives on the land-for-peace issue.

Once a view about the peace process gains halachic validity, the Orthodox can make decisions about where to align themselves

"without being an *apikoros* [heretic]," Jacobowitz says.

Goldin is perplexed because some rabbis have accused him of being divisive. "We are losing sight of the *clal* [the general] because of our own particularistic interests. It is happening at both ends of the spectrum."

"It's happening here when people say to me, about Shvil Hazahav, 'Don't you feel you should be supporting the Orthodox community in Israel?' My response is that I should be supporting all Jews in Israel and I need to worry not only about the Orthodox."

Even as the group organizes itself, one of its goals has already been met: "We were trying to show that the Orthodox community is not monolithic," Goldin says, "and we've done that."

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EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

Media reporting on Israel is not only relentlessly unfair but immensely harmful to Israel and to democratic values. The Jerusalem Post's popular and hard-hitting Eye on the Media column cites specific media reports and names to expose the bias, distortions and gross factual errors that plague such coverage. Reprinted here are 97 recent columns on the way the American, European - and Israeli - media report events. Eye on the Media is an eye opener; essential reading for everyone who cares about Israel, truth and journalistic ethics. David Bar-illan's column is outstanding. He is 100% right. Teddy Kollek (Davar, August 21, 1992)

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The fabrication backlash

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

ON December 2, this space was devoted to a story published in the Arizona State University newspaper, *The State Press*, which described the stoning to death of a quadriplegic by worshippers at the Western Wall. As the column stated after quoting the article, the story was a fabrication concocted by a sick mind.

But the canard's inventor, Mary Leigh Summerton, had not simply decided one fine day to write about Jews lynching a cripple in Jerusalem. Nor did her fantasy merit much attention except as a study of the way such fabrications are created, and published in a serious newspaper.

The fabrication's importance was in its intrinsic similarity to say, John Kifter's story in the *New York Times* ("Eye on the Media," October 29, 1993) which accused Israeli soldiers of arresting Palestinian children for carrying sliced watermelons ("thus displaying the red, black and green Palestinian colors"); or to William Dalrymple's story in the *London Spectator* ("Eye on the Media," November 18, 1994), which accused Israelis of killing nuns, when the real murderer was a Christian tourist. Summerton's fabrication was just cruder.

Setting out to investigate the anatomy of Summerton's fabrication, my only clue was what she herself had said when challenged about its authenticity. Trying to wriggle out of her lie, she claimed she had heard of the incident from Jerusalem Councilwoman Anat Hoffman. (She repeated this claim several times. On December 1, AP reported from Arizona: "The story... apparently was an embellished version of a tale a feminist member of the Jerusalem City Council told students on the summer trip.")

I did not, of course, suspect Hoffman - a sincere and skillful fighter for various causes, some of which I support - of perpetrating such a monstrosity. But I also realized that Summerton could not have based her charge on nothing. So I called Hoffman, who said she had done no more than tell a visiting group of university journalists (including Summerton) about several inci-

dents at the Wall reported in the press, clippings of which she would send me.

I asked her particularly about the Summerton reference to "a sign at the entrance to the wall which reads in Hebrew, 'A woman's voice is like her genitalia'..." a distorted translation of a talmudic saying with which journalists in Arizona are not usually familiar. Hoffman said only that the sentence does exist in the Talmud, and that she had mentioned it in her lecture.

(In fact, Hoffman had also referred to this talmudic epigram on a BBC World Service broadcast on September 5. She told the interviewer, "Religionists [sic] think that women are inferior, that the voice of a woman is like her vagina. I am quoting for you from the Talmud. It says that hearing the voice of a woman is like looking at her without clothes. It's a major law.")

Describing Orthodox attitudes to women, Hoffman also said, "That goes back to the whole folklore about women and witchcraft... and how women poison men in a mysterious way."

Hoffman promptly faxed me newspaper clippings documenting the incidents to which she had referred. They mostly described the violent harassment of "Women of the Wall" members and other displays of intolerance by the self-appointed guardians of the Wall's religious and moral standards, including a story of a quadriplegic who was forced to leave the Wall plaza because he operated his electric wheelchair on Shabbat. It was this story that provided the basis for Summerton's fabrication.

Obviously, Hoffman cannot be held responsible for the wild inventions of a pathological liar, though it is neither wise nor truthful to portray Jews - even the fanatically Orthodox - as fossils who demean women, and to misinterpret an ancient and irrelevant talmudic epigram using explicit sexual language.

But the most disturbing part of the fabrication is not that Sum-

merton wrote it, but that the Arizona newspaper's editor - and the dean of the school of journalism in a highly reputable university - saw nothing wrong with it and recommended its publication. This is simply hair-raising. No story of this kind about any other people could have entered a US university newspaper.

The blame for this readiness to believe the most horrible tales about Israelis must be shared by those who indiscriminately bash the country. Israelis like the late Yeshayahu Leibowitz, who coined the phrase "Judeo-Nazis"; Israel Shahak, who brands Israel "racist"; and Shulamit Aloni and Hoffman, who take common injustices out of context and expose them to foreigners as typical truths, all must bear the responsibility for helping create a world atmosphere hostile to Israel.

Misreading my December 2 column, Hoffman charged that I blamed her for telling Summerton the lynching story and demanded a retraction and apology in the paper. She also faxed the column to members of the visiting group who had heard her lecture. One of them, Michael Foucher, editor of the *Clark University Scurlet*, wrote a letter on her behalf to *The Jerusalem Post*: "... There is no question that Mary Leigh Summerton's article is a complete fabrication. Mr. Bar-Ilhan got that much right. The difficulties begin when he infers that Anat Hoffman, inadvertently or otherwise, gave Summerton the idea for the stoning story."

"Hoffman, according to the recollections of myself and others on the trip, never said anything about wheelchairs or stonings."

"I have read Mr. Bar-Ilhan's column 'Eye on the Media' numerous times in the past, and have found it interesting and informative. I am confused, however, why he strayed from focusing on the media and took a cheap shot at Anat Hoffman. Although his column doesn't say it directly, his comment '[Foreign-

ers'] readiness to believe the most egregious horrors... is due to... the disproportionate, indiscriminate and irresponsible trumpeting of Israel's real and imagined sins before impressionable foreign groups by Hoffman and her colleagues,' suggests that Anat Hoffman set out in some way to fear [sic] radical Israelis."

"Not at all. The rest of us 'impressionable foreigners' only heard that in many ways, tradition can be out of step with society, but not to fear differing opinions."

A similar letter was written by Jeffrey Ross, director of the department of campus affairs at ADL. "David Bar-Ilhan asserts that... Hoffman should bear much of the responsibility for inspiring the false and malicious story.... Not so. It is inaccurate and unfair to blame Anat Hoffman for what Summerton wrote. Full responsibility lies only with Summerton, clearly an individual who is much given to fabrication and, indeed, seems unable to distinguish reality from falsehood."

Anat Hoffman, who expressed her deeply held feminist orientation to the group, described several incidents, including the attack on the demonstration at the Kotel of the Women of the Wall, which have indeed taken place in recent years. Nothing she said was remotely similar to Summerton's pervasively distorted story (which is written as an independent eyewitness account).

I DON'T doubt Hoffman's sincerity, and I believe - as I said in the December 2 column - that her outrage at the conduct of the Wall "guardians" is just. Nor did I blame her for Summerton's invention, nor imply that anything she said was in any way similar to Summerton's fantasy. I merely pointed to the way a sick mind converted a provocatively told tale about a relatively innocuous incident into an incalculably damaging enormity.

And I am still convinced that no one has made the ground abroad more fertile for anti-Israel prejudice than Israelis who persistently, indiscriminately and irresponsibly propagate calumny.

Stop the trivia game and get back to basics

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK

I was glad when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin asked me recently to go with him to Oslo. I had never been to the Nobel Peace Prize ceremonies and thought it would be interesting.

Then came criticism in the media: Why are national funds being wasted on taking guests? The truth is that not even an agora was wasted. The plane was flying anyway, whether it carried 50 people or 100, and all expenses in Oslo were taken care of by the Norwegians. So why not go?

Still, the criticism made me uncomfortable. If I didn't go, I would appear to be a snob. If I did, I would be a parasite. I seemed to have no good choices. My predicament is illustrative of the times. (The criticism about receiving the prize with Arafat was a separate issue.)

The country is in a masochistic mood. Bad manners and petty, unwarranted criticism prevail. The media are busy studying the exact words Shimon Shetvetz uttered five years ago. Every insignificant detail is magnified and examined under a microscope. Don't people here have anything better to do?

Throughout Jewish history, whenever there was a rise of messianism, the people suffered. The story of Shabbetai Zvi is a case in point and so is the legend of Bar Kochba and his men, who thought they could defeat the Romans by themselves.

We seem to be again on the threshold of such a period of religious messianism, coupled with a feeling of great superiority among segments of the non-Orthodox, a feeling that we are so strong that we do not have to compromise on anything. Jews have been treated badly by the world for 2,000 years, so we don't owe anyone anything.

This notion shows up everywhere, for instance with emissaries who collect money abroad to buy a few more Arab houses in eastern Jerusalem for Jewish settlers, promising that this will resolve the Jerusalem issue. There is a false and arrogant claim at-

tached to an activity that will only bring about more hatred and division. Tolerance, not extremism, is the real key to a unified city. Israel's capital; foresight, rather than the short view.

WE CANNOT differentiate between local and broader issues. When people in the West Bank or Gaza are dissatisfied, it only fuels and strengthens organizations such as Hizbullah and Hamas, which give desperate souls something to believe in.

Another threat comes from Jews who believe in their rebbe or in the Messiah. This creates a very dangerous situation because it means extremism on every side. This is not a local issue; it is the big picture.

Religion is deteriorating rapidly these days. If, at the outset, the main theme was the content of the 10 commandments - the teaching of certain moral rules - the accent now is on formalities. Every week another restriction is invented about how to dress, where to walk and what to eat - kosher, glatt kosher, super kosher. The deep moral values are lost in the shuffle.

Everything seems to have become a matter of appearances. The content doesn't matter as much as how it will look, especially on TV. In the early Sixties, David Ben-Gurion was dead set against introducing television. He worried that it would corrupt the people. Regrettably, this was an impossible fight.

Nowadays, between talk shows and commercials, original thinking seems to be fading fast. In addition, the distance between the people and their leaders has been diminished, and with it has gone dignity and respect. People who have devoted their lives to their country get less and less appreciation when you see them every night on your 21-inch screen. They become constant prey to

media-scoop hunters and hecklers.

The media scrutiny has indirectly caused a courageous leader like Rabin to be less in touch with the people today than he was two years ago. He is overburdened, doing too many things and frustrated by demonstrators and reporters, and therefore has no patience. Patience and tolerance cannot be sacrificed.

On the other hand, you cannot show tolerance toward the affairs of Orient House. The government goes too far in its acceptance of Faisal Hussein's conducting Palestinian policy from there and sets a dangerous precedent. Then, on other matters, we show stubbornness that does not make sense.

The prime minister says repeatedly that there won't be a Palestinian state. I think there will eventually be a Palestinian state and that its existence will even be good for us, because you can't come to a meaningful and lasting agreement with a political body that is weak.

The Palestinian Authority will never be as strong as a state, and how can we reach an enduring peace with an organization that is less than a state? I believe that in no respect will a Palestinian state be of greater danger to Israel than the authority. Why not face that and say it openly?

We are not concentrating on the main issues and are making major issues of the minor ones. In Jerusalem, for instance, whether Bar-Ilan Street will be open or closed to traffic on Shabbat is a minor matter in comparison with the problems that drive a growing and constructive part of the population away from the city.

The government and the municipality are not giving enough priority to bringing more business, industry and housing to the city. Instead, statements are being made about our eternal devotion to Jerusalem. Statements are not what are most needed. What is needed is quiet, balanced action.

Nobel Prize mis-psalmody

PSALM 37 is one of the most troublesome sections of the Tanach, containing passages that are hard for ordinary mortals to swallow.

The very opening passage flies in the face of apparent fact. It tells us not to be upset that the wicked prosper, and not to envy them, for "they shall soon wither like the grass." We should rather "trust in God and do good," and He will give us our heart's desire.

For "the arms of the wicked shall be broken, whereas God upholds the righteous."

Commentators, and certainly lay folk, over the ages have struggled with such passages, which do not seem to jibe with our life experience. The wicked don't wither like grass all that soon, nor do their arms always seem to be broken in good time. Those who trust in God and do good don't seem to get their heart's desire often or soon enough.

A particularly troubling passage, one that especially challenges our credulity and faith, is verse 25: "I have been young and am now grown old, and I have never seen a righteous person forsaken or his offspring in want of [or begging for] food."

You don't have to grow very old to see apparently righteous people - who are not known to have wilfully wronged anyone - forsaken, or their innocent offspring desperate for food.

The *Birkat Hamazon* thanksgiving benediction said after meals concludes with a compilation of several biblical passages opening with a similarly challenging passage, also from Psalms (34:10): "Revere God, all you His holy people, for those who revere Him lack no good thing."

In most printed texts of the *Birkat Hamazon*, this segment concludes with the "I have been young..." passage followed by the famous "God will give His people strength, God will bless His people with peace" (Psalms 29:11).

Some versions omit these two passages, terminating the benediction with "Blessed is he who trusts in God and lays his reliance upon Him" (Jeremiah 17:7).

The talmudic sages and later scholars discuss the "I have been

A VIEW FROM NOV

MOSHE KOHN

young..." passage.

Traditionally, the Book of Psalms is attributed to David, "Sweet Singer of Israel." Some maintain that he composed it together with "the Ten Elders," and it was they who said "I have been young," for David, who died at 70, didn't live long enough to say he was "now grown old."

Others say that the passage was created by the angel Metatron. That is the name, of unclear etymology, of the Heavenly scribe who records the deeds of human beings and is the Heavenly advocate of the Jewish people.

Metatron was originally Enoch son of Jared. Enoch was so righteous that God saw fit to translate him alive into Heaven.

(See II Samuel 23:1, *Pessahim 117a*, *Bava Batra 14b*, *Genesis 5:18-24*, *Midrash Aggadah Bereshit 5:18*, *Yevamot 10b* including *Tosafot*, *Encyclopedia Judaica*.)

IF PRIME Minister Rabin had delivered his Nobel Prize address in Hebrew, instead of deigning to utter just a couple of scattered passages in his native tongue, he might have quoted Psalms 37:25 accurately.

In reviewing his life, Rabin, who like Foreign Minister Peres spoke in English, said: "I was a young man who has now grown fully in years. In Hebrew we say..." and proceeded to misquote the passage.

The original Hebrew text is: "Na'ar hayiti, gam zakanti..." which means, literally, "I was a lad, I also aged." Rabin said: "Na'ar hayiti, aval zakanti," meaning, literally, "I was a lad, but I aged."

Not really a very serious matter if not for the prime minister's proclivity for disgracing himself from time to time by misquoting passages from what he on Saturday night called "the Book of Books" that our nation bequeathed to all cultured people.

He and such fellow products of Israeli secular education as Peres and Shulamit Aloni have repeatedly displayed a disdain for checking their sources, and a

preference for shooting from the hip, as a result misquoting passages from the classic Jewish sources and misremembering Jewish (including Israeli) historical events.

And when people like Rabin utter the phrase "Book of Books" (apparently not of Jewish origin), it emerges from their lips as sheepishly as that black kippa sits on the heads of those guests at the bar-mitzva ceremony who otherwise never enter a synagogue or don a kippa.

Rabin's misquoting and slips of English grammar and syntax in spite of mainly reading from a prepared English text aren't the only reasons he should have delivered his Nobel address in Hebrew (as Peres should have done). Just like Israel's first Nobel laureate in 1966, writer S.Y. Agnon. And just like many world leaders who are not ashamed to address international gatherings in their national tongues.

Perhaps the answer lies in Cynthia Ozick's very apt quip: "Universalism is the Jewish provincialism."

There is nothing wrong with universalism, except when it is used to cover all traces of particularism, including the wholesome traces that give authentic strength to a person's or a nation's universalism.

Unrepentant PLO murder boss Yasser Arafat, who preceded Peres and Rabin at the speaker's lectern in Oslo, felt no need to put on any universalist pyrotechnics: he wore his fake military uniform, ribbons and "Palestinian warriors" keffiyeh, and he spoke in Arabic of the virtually unannounced PLO program of "return."

SOME TIMELY thoughts expressed by Winston Churchill 57 years ago, when he was an opposition MP.

On June 14, 1937, he told the Anti-Nazi Council that Britain's safety had been "fatally imperiled" both by a lack of arms and by the government's fostering in the Germans "the dangerous belief that they need not fear interference by us whatever they do."

The following December 21 he told Parliament that it would be wrong for any nation to give up "a scrap of territory to keep the Nazi kettle boiling."

SRULIK



by DOSH



An antidote to assimilation

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO RISKIN

IS THE Book of Genesis a portrait of success or failure? Ethical monotheism has been introduced to the world by Abraham. He conveys a unique philosophy and life-style to his son and grandson.

But by the end of the Book, the family have left their ancestral home in Israel and are in Egyptian exile. Will they withstand the fact that they are now strangers in a strange land, prone to assimilation and persecution?

As the portion of *Vayechi* opens, we know that, for the descendants of Jacob, Egypt's streets have been paved with gold, and that the most powerful man in Egypt is none other than Jacob's son, Joseph.

Despite the brothers' ill-treatment of Joseph, the grand vizier rolls out a red carpet for his siblings, who prosper in the territory given to them.

And since assimilation can seem so sweet, Jacob is worried that the temptations will be too great for his descendants. Close to death, he needs to know that the work of the patriarchs will not have been in vain.

If Jacob has Jewish grandchildren, then he will be in the unique position of getting from them what he gave to his grandfather. This will allow us to say with confidence that Genesis is a success story.

THE FIRST thing Jacob does is make Joseph swear that he will not bury him in Egypt, but rather

with his ancestors in the family burial plot in Hebron.

Jacob is making the point that although he may be in Egypt, he is not of Egypt, that his eternal resting place can only be where his real roots are, in Israel.

This request is only the first step in the process. Step two takes place when Jacob is about to die and Joseph is again called to his bedside, arriving with his two sons. The legacy Jacob leaves is the clearest expression of what is necessary for the continuation of our people.

The aged grandfather begins by referring to the Abrahamic blessing which he got from God in Luz, the blessing which is the essential expression of who he is and what gives his life meaning.

"Behold I will make you fruitful... and I will give this land to your children... for an everlasting possession." (Gen. 48:4)

Jacob then tells Joseph that his two sons, Ephraim and Menashe, are his - Jacob's. We do not yet understand what he means, and instead of his next words illuminating his intention, they only intensify the confusion: suddenly the patriarch, seemingly for no reason, introduces an entirely different subject.

"And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died on me. It was in Canaan, a short distance

before we came to the road to Efrat, the same as Bethlehem." (Gen. 48:7)

Now that we're doubly confused, the deathbed scene becomes even more perplexing. Rachel recedes into the background, and Jacob looks again at Joseph's two sons, and asks, "Whose are these?" It's as if his memory is going.

What is going on?

RASHI EXPLAINS the apparent digression back to his experience with Rachel as a throwback to Jacob's initial request not to be buried in Egypt. It is the old man's way of telling Joseph that he understands the apparent contradiction in a request to be buried with his forefathers, given that he didn't bury his own wife Rachel in the family grave.

Nevertheless, Jacob is still expecting that Joseph will honor his oath and bury him in Hebron.

Let's consider another reason for introducing Rachel in the midst of addressing his grandsons. We must return to last week's portion of *Vayigash*. Discovering that Joseph is alive, Jacob leaves for Egypt. Arriving in Beersheba, he brings sacrifices, and has a vision of God.

"I am God, the God of your father. Fear not going down to

Egypt, for I will make you a great nation. I will go down with you in Egypt, and I will surely return with you, and Joseph shall put his hand upon your eyes." (Gen. 46:2-3)

As he nears Egypt, the magnitude of what his journey may portend begins to sink in. The family has multiplied to 70 souls; it is embarking on the first Jewish exile in history. Is this the beginning of the end of Israel?

And so he brings sacrifices and prays. And God responds in a vision: He need not fear, the omnipotent God is with him. He, and his descendants, will return to the land of Israel.

Now, back in *Vayechi*, Jacob is about to die. He has God's promise that he - and his descendants - will return to Israel, and he understands that the key is Joseph's sons. As they were born in Egypt, the land of their forefathers is not a reality to them.

Yes, Jacob will bless them, but he wants them to belong to him, to share in his dream of a Messianic ingathering of nations, to adopt his customs and philosophy, to yearn with him for a return to Israel. And he wants them to understand that returning to Israel will not be easy.

When Jacob asks Joseph, "Whose are these?" it is not the absent-minded mumbling of an old man. It is the instruction of a grandfather to a grandson: To whom do you belong, to Egypt or to Israel?

Shabbat Shalom

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without

THE JERUSALEM POST

Year's end is the time to relieve tax pain

YOUR MONEY
NEIL COHEN

I don't like writing about taxes, because they're painful and boring. But the end of the tax year is approaching and we should all perhaps be looking at ways of minimizing the pain. Here are a number of them:

• The favored mechanism is investing in a provident fund. If you haven't used up the tax benefits offered by various savings mechanisms, now is the time. Most people, or at least most salaried employees, have either a pension plan or managers' insurance (*bituah menaholim*), contributions to which utilize the same tax benefits provident funds confer. However, it may be that you haven't made full use of the benefits available.

If you don't already save in a provident fund or have a pension plan or managers' insurance, you can save up to (whichever is lower) NIS 3,665 a year or 5% (7% for the self-employed, 7.5% for people over 50) of your taxable income (salary and other components, but not reimbursed expenses).

You will earn a tax rebate of 25% of the sum you invest and a tax deduction at your highest marginal rate of tax. If you contribute to one of the above schemes already but don't fully utilize your entitlement, you can make up the difference, receiving both the rebate and the deduction as above. The downside is that the money is tied up for 15 years, but it's probably still a worthwhile move.

• Not enough people know this, but most charitable contributions in this country attract a tax rebate.

Provided that your contributions are to "recognized" institutions, you are entitled to rebates at a rate of 35% on contributions up to 25% of your total annual salary. Rebates are received in the year after they are claimed, so start collecting up those receipts.

• If you are self-employed try to defer booking any significant income to the beginning of next year, but particularly if there are expenses you know you are going to incur in the near future, try to bring them forward to before the end of this year so that you can offset them against your income this year rather than next.

The only benefit is the deferral of the tax, but that is nonetheless of value.

• If you are in higher income brackets and are prepared to get into some pretty complicated stuff, it's not too late to look at various tax-shelter mechanisms.

For example, units in (Israeli) oil exploration limited partnerships (which are traded on the TASE) enable you to offset your share of the partnership's losses (not your stock-market loss on the units) against your income.

There is some confusion over exactly how tax shelters work. They operate largely as a tax-deferral mechanism rather than a tax saver, but for people with big tax bills, having to pay, say, NIS 25,000 in a year's time rather than now is a worthwhile benefit — the money sits in your bank account earning tax-free interest rather than in the Income Tax Authority's account.

Before you embark on this option you need to check that the limited partnership you want to invest in has the requisite losses. Consult an accountant.

With thanks to Asher Carciente of Somekh Chaikin for assistance in preparing this article.



A computer-operated light rail system connects Frankfurt Airport's Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

This airline flies into the future

LUFTHANSA has seen the future — and it works.

On a recent trip to Frankfurt, sponsored by the German national airline, this reporter saw how Lufthansa has taken the lead in planning and implementing Frankfurt Airport's Terminal 2, which is waiting patiently for the 21st century.

Recently opened for operations, the huge airport complex, second in size in Europe only to London's Heathrow, is ready to accommodate the Boeing 777 jumbo jets that will carry up to 1,000 passengers, according to Israel's Lufthansa representative, Josef Bogdanski.

"The runways are wider, the jetways [the sleeves which connect the passengers to the gate] are longer, baggage conveyor belts have multiplied and corridors are more spacious to deal with the huge traffic expected in the first years of the next century," he says.

The passenger who wanders into Terminal 2 might be excused for thinking he has taken a wrong turn. The hustle and bustle of airport life are noticeably absent.

It is not the lack of people or noise that startles you as much as the huge space in which you find yourself.

The floor space, which incidentally is sparkling clean, is set up to deal with five times the current volume of air and pedestrian traffic.

Most airports are constantly trying to keep up with the greater needs of the airlines and their customers, which results in instant obsolescence. As soon as a new structure is completed or an older one remodeled, it finds itself overtaken.

FRANKFURT, by contrast, appears to be patiently awaiting the next wave of aviation transport demands.

The new Terminal 2 handles both domestic flights and those between members of the European Union, while Terminal 1 is undergoing extensive renovations to cope with international

Lufthansa is putting its mark on 21st-century travel by developing Europe's second-largest airport, Joe Hoffman reports

air traffic. The two are connected by a computer-operated light rail system.

One might legitimately question the need for even more oversized aircraft carriers. Where's the progress in having more passengers on one liner?

The possibilities for lost luggage, insufficient resources and a host of unforeseen problems would surely neutralize the technical advantages.

Bogdanski explains: "Air traffic is so heavy that it is impossible to get more landing rights. Therefore, to stay competitive, airlines must make each flight more efficient."

In Frankfurt, that efficiency works 18 hours per day. From 11 p.m. to 5 a.m., no air traffic is permitted to disturb the sleep patterns of the airport's neighbors.

The 19 airlines which have landing rights at Terminal 2 can also take advantage of the "peanut flight."

To cut costs, there is no food service on the airplanes, but passengers can load up with drinks, sandwiches and newspapers prior to take-off.

As a final touch to Frankfurt's futuristic design, there are even recycling trash cans with different compartments for paper and metal.

LUFTHANSA'S FLEET is also soaring into the 21st century. The average age of the fleet is four and a half years, compared with the 10 to 15 of other airlines, Bogdanski explains.

Older planes are sold to charter companies or converted into cargo carriers.

The modernity and creature

comforts of the Boeing 747 and Airbus A-340 are especially apparent in Business Class.

The latter is a wide-bodied plane with spacious seats comfortably separated from their neighbors, and ample aisle space.

While the Airbus A-340 is used extensively by other airlines on their intercontinental flights, Lufthansa is the only carrier which provides this service to Israel, Bogdanski is proud to point out.

A TV monitor showing a choice of three movies is affixed to every seat and 16 radio stations are available. For up-to-the-minute information on the flight itself, a flick of the TV switch presents a map showing the plane's progress. This is accompanied with a chart showing altitude, outside temperature, velocity and time at place of destination.

The airline offers the passenger a choice of main course and beverages. Kosher and vegetarian fare are also available.

BUT IT is in safety features that Lufthansa excels.

In addition to the biannual testing of pilots for license renewal, to which all airlines must conform, Lufthansa holds mandatory refresher courses and stipulates that cockpit crews par-

ticipate in emergency evacuation drills.

The tires, which are changed after 150 takeoffs and landings, are filled with nitrogen instead of oxygen, because the former is not as highly flammable.

The planes are also put through rigorous check-ups before every flight. After three months, they are literally taken apart piece by piece for stress tests and other checks.

A tour of an airplane hangar, a simulated cockpit experience and observation of a crew undergoing emergency procedures go a long way in allaying the layman's fear of flying.

Following the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, Lufthansa is investigating the feasibility of transferring passengers on shuttles from Tel Aviv to Amman.

"If a traveler from Germany wants to go to Petra, for example, he can land at Tel Aviv and take a two-hour bus ride to Jordan," explains Bogdanski. "Israelis routinely drive two hours from the north of the country to Ben Gurion. The same two hours can take you across the border."

East warms to East on business deals

Rabin's current visit to Japan and Korea points to a changing trade situation. Neil Cohen and Rachel Neiman report

THE timing was purely coincidental, but while Prime Minister Rabin was leading a delegation of industrialists to Japan and South Korea this week, Avner Rotman was signing his first major deal with a Japanese company, a deal he has pursued for more than three years.

Biodar, Rotman's small but fast-growing specialty chemicals company in Rehovot, had courted Takeda, the Japanese chemicals and pharmaceuticals giant. "We wanted to buy raw materials from them, we suggested joint ventures, we wanted to work with their agents in the UK and the US. Somehow nothing ever materialized."

Things have clearly changed. "In the last year relations suddenly warmed up very quickly," Rotman says. This week Takeda agreed to distribute Biodar's products alongside its own in the United States, and the companies are negotiating expanding their relationship.

Rotman is not the only one to feel the change. "Japan today represents Israel's second most important economic target, after the United States," said Elhanan Harel, head of the Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce. Exports to Japan rose 18% in the first nine months of 1994 to \$681 million. Imports fell 14% to \$690 million, mainly because of the expensive yen, he said.

Exports to Korea, mainly diamonds, machinery and chemicals, surged in 1993 from \$89 million to \$137 million, equal to the amount of imports, said Marie-France Yitzhaki, deputy director of the Asia division at the Industry and Trade Ministry. Exports for the first six months of 1994 were \$87m. Imports, primarily cars, metal products, rubber, chemicals, textiles and shoes, have grown significantly as well.

"There has been a great deal of interaction with Japan and Korea over the past two years," says Arye Gabay of the Foreign Ministry's Asian trade desk. "There have been exchanges of official and non-official delegations from the Manufacturers' Association and the chambers of commerce. What is of particular importance is that both countries are sources of investment in Israel."

The information division at the Israel Chambers of Commerce also reports an increase in queries and contacts since the peace process began.

OVER THE past year the big Korean conglomerates Goldstar, Samsung and Hyundai have sent

delegations, says Dani Amar, who represents Korean firm Hai Tai in Israel. "They are visiting factories, learning about our high tech, agriculture and chemical industries and looking at Israel's potential for joint ventures."

Hai Tai, which flouted the Arab boycott by opening its Israeli offices in 1993, was the first large Korean firm to enter Israel. Amar's operation, which has been contracted to build the new Dead Sea Works' power station "is also trying to interest Korea in Israeli software. We see potential in expanding regional trade with Jordan and Egypt, as well as creating ties between companies."

Despite this rosy picture officials say there are important differences in Israel's business relations with Korea and Japan.

"The Korean companies are flocking to Israel. They are very bold in their penetration of the Israeli market," Harel said.

The boycott is no longer a barrier in doing business with Korea, which renewed diplomatic relations with Israel only in 1992, Yitzhaki said.

But companies in Japan are still fearful — Japan depends on the Arab world for 70% of its oil.

"The Japanese government has openly stated it is opposed to the Arab boycott. But some companies are reluctant to change their traditional marketing policy," Harel said.

Yitzhaki predicted Japanese and Korean trade houses would open offices in Israel in the near future, facilitating joint ventures and bringing in investments. Gabay says large Japanese firms are also inquiring about Israeli companies, albeit cautiously and anonymously. "In the past two years many Japanese multinationals which had never been represented in Israel began to visit. Some have even opened offices under false names in the hope that as the peace process advances, those offices would begin to operate."

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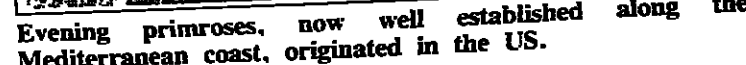
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Signals of strength

Salov's result was impressive. When one considers that he does not normally play the White side of the Sicilian, his achievement acquires more awesome dimensions.

After 14.gxh6 Bxh6 15.Bx
Rxh6 Black would have had

Solution: White won beautifully with 1.exf6! Rxe5 2.Rg8+! a knight? Rxe8 3.Nf7 is mate



D'VORA BEN SHAUL

It is a decorative plant in the garden and the flowers are long-lasting when cut, but its principal attraction is its tasty tubers. The American Indians used to drive stakes wherever they found them in the summer so they could harvest the tubers in winter. In the diaries of Lewis and Clark, the 19th-century explorers relate that their guide kept the party going by foraging for these tubers.

Aviv highway. They grew wild and have spread into the surrounding vineyards. Some naturalists are upset because they consider these transplants "unnatural," but many plants considered "natural" may have arrived where they are in a similar way.

Opening lead: ♣3.

THREE are the signals in the d

diately ruffed a club, then drew one round of trumps. Next, he could have played the ace of hearts and another heart. Even East ducked and West ruffed. West would have found him self endplayed.

BEVERLEE BLACK

FORSAKE ME NOT

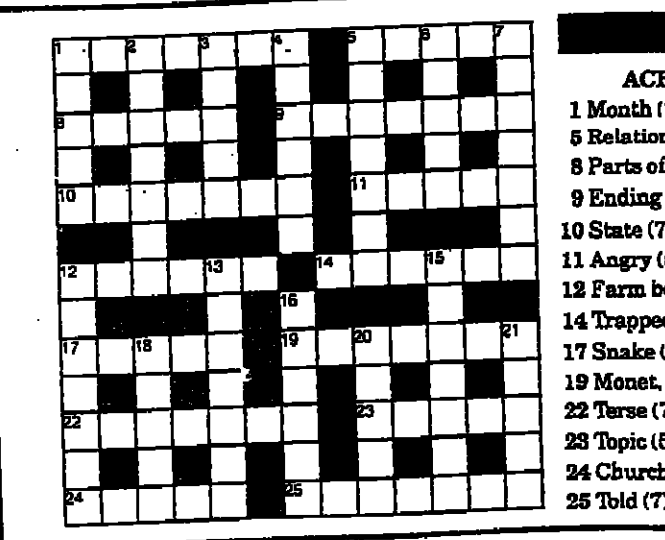
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— this rodent's life? (8)

4 Look sullen—up to no good

4 Look similar—sp. 1-1-1
(4)



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Fleck, 4 Sibyl, 10 Fuchsia
 11 Erect, 12 Ridge, 13 Holiday, 15 Rose
 17 Prong, 19 Study, 22 Late, 23
 Ensured, 27 Dated, 29 Error, 30
 Promise, 31 Ample, 32 Usage.
DOWN: 2 Lucid, 3 Cistern, 5 Ideal,
 6 Yielded, 7 Afire, 8 Yacht, 9 Stays,
 10 Oast, 16 Ogle, 18 Rostrum, 20 Tedium,
 21 Refer, 23 Adept, 24 Adder, 26 Burn,
 28 Thing.

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25 Told (7)	20 Add (5)
	21 Rate (5)



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He wrote a book true to character

The first Chinese-Hebrew dictionary was a labor of love and nostalgia, editor Emmanuel Pratt tells Liat Collins

WHEN the door to Emmanuel Pratt's Jerusalem apartment opens, the Chinese character for "double luck" hanging on the inside shakes a greeting. It's an appropriate welcome to the home of someone who has just published a Chinese-Hebrew dictionary, marking the end of a seven-year labor of love.

Surrounded by Chinese books and paintings, Pratt is quick to explain what motivated him: "Do you remember what [Edmund] Hillary said when asked why he climbed Mount Everest? He said, 'Because it was there.' I wrote this book because it wasn't there. This happens to be the first Chinese-Hebrew dictionary in the world."

He began work on his *Milon Simanot Sini-Ivri* (literally "Chinese-Hebrew Dictionary of Characters"; published by Carta) because he "wanted to give a tool to the Hebrew-speaking student to understand practically any Chinese character he meets."

Although it may serve the traveler and businessman, the dictionary is definitely a guide to the classical Chinese characters Pratt loves, rather than to the spoken word. "The Chinese character is the soul of Chinese culture," he says.

Mao Zedong "simplified" a third of all Chinese characters by reducing the number of strokes they comprised. In his dictionary, Pratt has printed both the classical Chinese characters and the simplified versions.

It is a pragmatic approach which makes the book usable in the People's Republic as well as the rest of the Chinese-speaking world, but Pratt is ambivalent about it.

"Why did they simplify or abbreviate the Chinese characters? Not to make them easier to remember. It's easier to remember the old ones than the new [because each stroke represented another ideal]."

"They simplified the characters in order to uproot the old Chinese culture and plant the seeds of a new culture. Now the people can read what Mao wrote but not what Mao read," he says. "They did not simplify the characters; they castrated them."

A FORMER journalist, Pratt is happier asking questions than talking about himself. Eventually he relaxes, uncrosses his jeans-clad legs, puts his arms behind his mop of white hair and talks about himself.

He was born in 1921 in Vladivostok, which he pronounces slowly, like a terrible curse. When he was a year old, his wealthy parents, like many Jews, moved the family across the Sea of Japan to Harbin to escape the Russian revolution.

He studied in a Jewish English-language school, but soaked in the Chinese culture that surrounded him.

In 1948, he arrived in Israel, "fought with the IZL, and went into journalism. I was chief reporter and photographer for *Bamahaneh* [the IDF soldiers' magazine], and worked for the print and electronic media. Now I'm a pensioner: painting, sculpting and having fun."

While he serves guests aromatic Chinese tea, he converses in English and Hebrew. But his speech is marked by a heavy Russian accent, and he is clearly



A speaker of Chinese, Hebrew, English and Russian, Emmanuel Pratt loves classical Chinese characters. "The Chinese character is the soul of Chinese culture," he says. (Sarit Uziel)

proud of it. "I got it from my parents," he says. His love of China and Israel notwithstanding, it is Russian language and culture with which he feels most at home, he says.

He has never returned to either China or Russia. "And I don't want to. Today's China is not my China. My China is not the red flag but the flag of [Republican president] Sun Yat-sen. From a certain point of view, it's a matter of nostalgia. What is China? For most people it's a market; for others it's nostalgia, and I belong to that category."

THE DICTIONARY combines love of the old China with the reality of the modern one. The 7,136 Chinese character entries can be found by using the two acceptable methods of most Chinese-foreign language dictionaries.

Those who know the sound of the word can use the Latin transliteration that appears in the classical Wade-Giles form (for example, Peking), or Pinyin, the more accurate transliteration used in mainland China (for example, Beijing).

Those who don't know the pronunciation have to rely on the traditional method of finding the word's radical (root) character, counting the character's additional strokes and looking it up in an index under the number of strokes.

It is an irony that in order to use a Chinese dictionary you need to know the Chinese language so well you hardly need a dictionary at all, Pratt notes. "It's like going to a bank and asking for a loan. You have to prove that you don't need it, that you have the collateral, in order to get it."

He based his choice of entries on English-, Russian- and Chinese-Chinese dictionaries, adding no specific terms for the Hebrew-speaker or relating to the Middle East. "I was thinking only of the characters, not the language," he explains.

In the dictionary's early days, Pratt drew every character by hand.

As a painter, he is "absolutely crazy about Chinese calligraphy."

but unfortunately it's not my strong point. My calligraphy was so poor and it went so slowly that I decided I had to spend a lot of money and get a Chinese program for the computer."

THE COMPUTER program helped free him of dependency on his friend, Yuri Grause, who had helped proofread his work until then.

But like the authors of most books, Pratt admits that without the support of friends, and the sinophile chairman at Carta, Emanuel Hausman, it might never have been completed.

"I worked on this from morning to night and then at night I had nightmares. I was supported by many people. But by the end it was more of a burden, a pain, than a joy. I was pleased and relieved when I finally conquered it."

貨種應該當

Historic and cultural guide

THE *Milon Simanot Sini-Ivri* (A Chinese-Hebrew Dictionary) compiled by Emmanuel Pratt and published by Carta (NIS 156) is more a guide to Chinese culture than to the language.

Besides the dictionary itself, there are appendices on the Chinese dynasties, zodiac, provinces and their capitals, numerals and the 24 Chinese seasons.

It has "everything someone needs to delve into classical Chinese culture and history," Pratt says.

It is beautifully printed with clear characters - essential for counting strokes - on glossy paper.

There are, however, certain serious drawbacks for the student of the Chinese language. For example, the tones of words - necessary as a guide to pronunciation - are not marked.

The dictionary also lacks combinations of different characters.

so each entry is reduced to its most basic meaning. "It was simply impossible to do all the combinations of characters, so I didn't do any," Pratt says.

Also lacking is a Hebrew-Chinese counterpart, and Pratt has no plans to begin one.

"There would be all sorts of difficulties, like untranslatable terms, religious concepts and so on."

Nonetheless, no Hebrew speaker involved with Chinese language or culture should reject the dictionary on these grounds.

Hopefully, it won't take another 2,000 years for someone to correct these deficiencies. L.C.

'Mentsch' of conscience

GRAPEVINE

GREER FAY CASHMAN



Danish Ambassador Jakob Rytter spoke better Hebrew than his guests did. (Harari)

FORMER Nobel Peace Prize committee member Kaare Kristiansen proved himself to be a man of principle in more than matters of conscience. During a reception at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel - at the same time as Saturday evening's prize ceremony in Oslo - Kristiansen was thronged by admirers who wanted to speak to him and shake his hand. Though gracious to the core, the presumably hungry Kristiansen was determined to finish the chocolate cake on his plate, which he succeeded in doing without compromising his good manners.

At the event, hosted by the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, Kristiansen spoke in support of Israeli MIA's. Jerusalem Post executive editor David Bar-Ilan told the 1,500-strong crowd that Kristiansen, in parliament for 15 years, could not become prime minister of Norway because his party was too small. "But if he ever decides to make aliya..." Bar-Ilan said, prompting sustained applause.

EXPANDED quadruple-figure guest lists have become status symbols. Shipping tycoon Yuli Ofer, whose business interests include banking and real-estate development, has so many friends and valuable acquaintances in so many areas that more than 1,000 people attended the opening of Herzliya's \$30 million Mercatim 2001, a luxury block of offices built by Ofer Brothers. Ofer and his wife, Ruth, greeted well-wishers, including Israel TV broadcaster Dalia Mazar, Herzliya Mayor Eli Landau and Economics Minister Shimon Shetret.

TOKYO POSE. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, so often in the eye of the camera, playfully turned the tables on photographers while touring the Sony Corporation during his visit to Japan this week. Inspecting a mini-video camera, he quipped: "Now it's my turn to shoot you."

Among the gifts Rabin received in Japan were 3,000 trees to be planted in honor of Jerusalem's upcoming 3,000th anniversary celebrations.

AFTER A long absence from this part of the world, former US secretary of state and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Henry Kissinger has announced plans to visit in the spring. Kissinger attributes the delay in reacquainting himself with Israel to the frequency with which so many of his Israeli friends come to the US.

DANISH Ambassador Jakob Rytter hosted a reception for the fledgling Simha Foundation, a nonprofit organization established to continue the work of 1976 Israel Prize laureate Simha Holtzberg, who died in February. Holtzberg, known as "the father of the wounded soldiers," also adopted the children's oncology wards at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital and the Children's Medical Center in Petah Tikva.

Rytter, who had a close, eight-year relationship with Holtzberg, wanted to do something to recognize Holtzberg's contribution to the rehabilitation of wounded and disabled soldiers. He also referred to the "special feeling" which Holtzberg, a Warsaw Ghetto Holocaust survivor, had for the Danes who had rescued members of their own Jewish community from the Nazis. In appreciation, Holtzberg had raised funds for a monument in Copenhagen's Israel Square.

Guests at Rytter's Herzliya Eitnah residence included Holtzberg's son, Shmuel, courtier doyenne Lola Beer, arts patron Esther Rubin, former hostage and MIA negotiator Uri Slonim, honorary Danish consul and chairman of the Israel-Denmark chamber of commerce Ami Lapidot, Chief of Staff-designate Amnon Lipkiz Shabak, and several disabled veterans including quadriplegic Severin Hersen, wounded in the Entebbe rescue operation, and Simha Foundation chairman Ilan Zohar. Disabled veteran Kuti Gershon announced that the first anniversary of Holtzman's death would be



Actress Tikki Dayan accepted the Histadrut's theater prize with emotion. (Harari)

marked at a gala evening at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium on February 22.

Although he made his official address in English, Rytter spoke only Hebrew in conversation with his Hebrew-speaking guests. He is one of several ambassadors whose fluency in Hebrew puts some locals to shame.

AFTER TAKING messages from showbiz celebrities such as Dan Almogor, Shlomo Tzuch and Kochava Harari, the switchboard operator at the Dan Panorama, Tel Aviv, realized that Australian guest Nechama Paskin was more than just an ordinary tourist. The internationally acclaimed keyboardist, whose forebears were among the founders of Ness Ziona, is here on a private visit.

USUALLY HE'S speechless - at least on stage. But mime artist Hanoach Rosen is talking up a stream of offstage appreciation of the 35th birthday gift presented to him at the beginning of the week by his wife Anat, who made him a father. Gali, the couple's first child, weighed in at 2.950 kg.

Unlike the birthday gift from TV host Dudu Topaz, Gali did not come as a surprise. Topaz, who a few days before the birth invited Rosen to appear on his show, gave him a video clip in which master of mime Marcel Marceau was also uncharacteristically vocal. Speaking in French, Marceau conveyed birthday greetings to Rosen and commended his talent. Rosen, who until that moment had no trouble finding his tongue, slipped back into his regular routine. He was so overwhelmed he was speechless.

SEVERAL MODELS and beauty queens have immigrated here from the former Soviet Union, but the most beautiful of all is Orna Giller, 18, from Rishon LeZion. The strikingly attractive, 1.75-m. Giller outshone her rivals in a contest sponsored by the Russian-language publication *Vesti*. The rules of the contest stipulated that contestants be immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Some discrimination is apparently acceptable.

PANNED BY the critics as being boring and overly long, Claude

Lanzmann's film on the IDF's *Tzahal*, did appeal to some people, such as Dan Darin, deputy mayor of Tel Aviv, and lyricist and radio/TV talk show host Ehad Manor, who were among those who sat right through the premiere at ZOA House in Tel Aviv. Lanzmann, who was understandably nervous, spent most of his time in the foyer, showing off photographs of his 18-month-old son, Yankel.

THE JORDANIANS are coming, not in droves but to participate in conferences. One of the more distinguished Jordanians to arrive this week was lawyer and newspaper columnist Dr. Walid Sa'ad, who writes editorials and has a regular column in the *Jordan Times*, of which he is a former editor-in-chief. Sa'ad, who was also his country's ambassador to Ankara and Geneva, is a human rights expert who has twice been a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights, to which the Hebrew University's Prof. David Kretzmer was recently elected. For Sa'ad, who attended an HU international legal conference, his visit here was in the nature of a homecoming. Born in Jerusalem's Russian Compound, he fled with his family in 1948. His participation in the conference was at the suggestion of Canadian human rights activist Irwin Cotler.

THE JEWELRY on display was mostly 18-karat gold, set with diamonds, emeralds and other precious stones, but the banquet at the Tel Aviv Hilton was not even gold plated. H. Stern, the international jewelry chain, held its annual showcase for 1,000 invited local customers. According to Yohanan Dreyfus, general manager of H. Stern's Israel operations, someone in the hotel's kitchen, food-and-beverage or banquet departments obviously goofed, because the buffets were almost bereft of food within half an hour of the opening. Guests exhibited more interest in the smoked salmon and other delicacies than in the \$54,000 chokers gracing the necks of topline models.

Accosted by frustrated latecomers who found very little to put on their plates, a hapless member of the hotel's kitchen staff declared: "It's only a cocktail, you know, not a dinner!" IN AN emotional acceptance speech for the theater prize in the Histadrut arts awards, actress Tikki Dayan thanked not only relatives, friends and colleagues who had come to Beit Lessin to witness her triumph, but also playwrights such as Shakespeare, Chekhov and Hanoach Levin, to whom she felt she owed some measure of her success.

REGARDLESS OF the circumstances, the show must go on. *Jerusalem Post* funds director Beverlee Black was ill and unable to attend a JP Welcome Home Fund scholarship awards ceremony in Beit Shemesh, but that did not put the event on hold. Post publisher Yehuda Levy and senior staff members sat with recipients in the office of Beit Shemesh Mayor Daniel Vaknin as part of the paper's policy to meet readers and funds beneficiaries on their own turf. Scheduled for upcoming visits are Rahat and Haifa.

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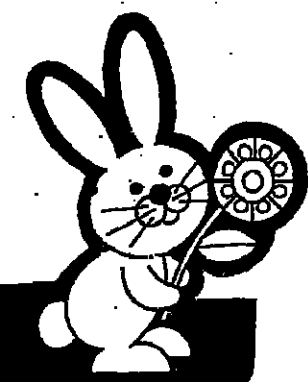
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CALLING ALL HANDICRAFTERS!

The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair will take place on Tuesday, April 18, at the Metro-West Sports Center in Ra'anana.

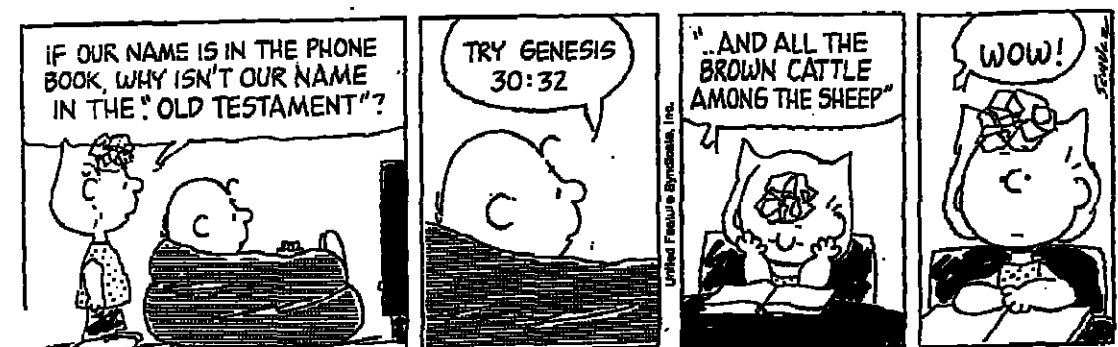
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1994

Kokolevitch to leave Treasury

JOSE ROSENFELD

AFTER less than two years on the job, Accountant-General Reuven Kokolevitch is leaving the Treasury due to his strained relationship with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

Although, the Treasury yesterday issued a press release saying Kokolevitch is resigning, officials confirmed that he was already on the way out.

The officials added that Kokolevitch had difficulty integrating into the top echelon of Treasury officialdom, as he did not have a smooth relationship with Shohat.

An official attributed those difficulties on Kokolevitch's lack of flexibility.

According to reports, Shohat is planning to replace Kokolevitch with Shai Talmon, who currently serves as a deputy budget director.

Unlike Kokolevitch, who Shohat did not personally know and was appointed to the job at Prime

Minister Yitzhak Rabin's request, Talmon has a close rapport with Shohat which goes back to their mutual origins in the Negev.

An official said, however, that the Talmon appointment is far from assured. Several officials pointed out that Talmon has no business head.

The accountant-general is the government's chief financial officer and, aside from signing all checks, is intimately involved in raising the funds needed to run the budget.

The carefully worded Treasury statement said: "At the finance minister's request, Kokolevitch will stay on for a few more months to finish up projects. Kokolevitch will retire from government service after a career that spanned three decades and culminated, in the past two years, with his post at the Treasury. Shohat expressed appreciation for Kokolevitch's dedication and contribution."

Warburg, Morgan Stanley merger talks collapse

LONDON (Reuters) - A deal that would have created the world's largest investment bank collapsed yesterday when British investment bank S.G. Warburg and US counterpart Morgan Stanley called off merger talks.

The main sticking point in the deal, valued at \$7.8 billion, was how Warburg's 75 percent-owned subsidiary Mercury Asset Management Group Plc - the jewel in the Warburg crown - would fit into the deal.

"It's a question of price," said Phillip Gibbs, banking analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd. "If someone is prepared to offer the right price, they will be able to get Warburgs. But if they fail to fully price MAM, then they will fail."

Gibbs said he believed MAM would not accept losing its independence and being swallowed up by

the giant "Morgan Warburg" at the price that Morgan Stanley was prepared to pay.

In New York, Morgan Stanley Group Inc said: "While the discussions between Morgan Stanley and S.G. Warburg were proceeding on the basis of a market-for-market merger, the price and terms on which Mercury Asset Management Group Plc indicated it would be willing to participate in the transaction were unacceptable to Morgan Stanley."

"For its part, Morgan Stanley was unwilling to proceed with a transaction excluding Mercury," it added.

Last week's news of the proposed merger sent shockwaves through Britain's financial markets and prompted speculation that this was the start of a new wave of takeovers and job cuts in the banking sector.

3 firms setting up Chinese factory

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DISCOUNT Investments, PEC Israel Corp., and Sano Bruno Enterprises are negotiating to establish a packaging factory in China in partnership with a Chinese firm. Gideon Erhard, senior manager and director of Discount Investments, said yesterday.

Erhard said an agreement between Sano and the Discount group allows each company equal participation in any new investment in China undertaken by the other. He said Discount is interested in investing in several industries.

"We are considering joint ventures in all fields," said Erhard. "At the moment we are looking at three Discount Investment subsidiaries whose products we would like to manufacture in China."

Bruno Landesberg, managing director of Sano, said the company's detergent factory in Senyang Province will begin production next week. Senyang Sano Daily Use Articles was established in partnership with Senyang's storage and transport company,

which is owned by the government.

The companies agreed to invest \$6 million in the factory. 55% financed by the Israeli investors and 45% by the Chinese, reflecting the division of ownership. Sano has a 27.5% share in the company, while Discount and PEC each have a 13.75%.

Landesberg was appointed chairman of the detergent company. According to the agreement, the Chinese are responsible for all infrastructure work, while Sano is in charge of know-how, equipment, and training.

If Rabin doesn't know the future of the stock tax who does?

COMMENT

NEIL COHEN

Dear Marv,
Thanks for your fax asking me to explain what's going on over here with the stock market capital gains tax and the Labor Party.

To start with, it's not clear who is running the nation's economic policy - the prime minister, the finance minister, the other ministers, the cabinet, the Knesset, the Labor Knesset faction, the broader Labor Party, big business or the man in the street.

Well, the law that would bring the tax into force was passed in committee, passed three readings in the Knesset plenum and was approved by the cabinet. Then, suddenly the politicians got cold feet, although some of them also had other agendas. The stock market had started falling well before this whole business, sitting at around 180 ahead of the announcement, dropping from a high of 250. Corporate earnings

age of reforms - cutting some taxes, liberalizing some foreign currency regulations and introducing a tax on stock market profits. The prime minister had said only a few weeks earlier that there would be no such tax as long as he was prime minister. But the finance minister persuaded the prime minister that apart from the tax being a just one, the package was an inflation buster. (It isn't).

When the legislation was on the verge of passing, Labor Knesset members were deluged with calls from supporters, who said how terrible the tax was and how it was going to pauperize them, if it hadn't already. All kinds of people had been sweet-talked into putting money, sometimes borrowed, that they often couldn't afford, into the market. Now, if the government was going to allow banks to dish out the

were lousy, the peace dividend didn't seem to be materializing. Inflation was up and interest rates were also heading north. But the market tumbled further after the announcement, although it subsequently made up those losses, and people blamed the tax.

When the legislation was on the verge of passing, Labor Knesset members were deluged with calls from supporters, who said how terrible the tax was and how it was going to pauperize them, if it hadn't already. All kinds of people had been sweet-talked into putting money, sometimes borrowed, that they often couldn't afford, into the market. Now, if the government was going to allow banks to dish out the

credit and push the investments then they had an obligation to make sure that people made a profit, or so people argued.

Suddenly, some of the weak links in the Labor party took fright and the opportunists saw an angle. The energy minister, Moshe Shahal, fancied the job of finance minister for himself. The economics minister, Shimon Shetret, one of the farbrene socialists in the crew, who had originally been a big supporter of the tax, started hemming and hawing. He apparently would like to see some bank manager friend of his as finance minister.

The finance minister has held his ground, though the prime minister hasn't exactly helped him. On his trip to the Far East this week he said he'd reassess the issue upon his return here. A real vote of confidence in his point man!

Rabin, you see, is the local version of Teflon Man. Things go well, or even half well, and he gets the Nobel Prize. Things go wrong and, boy, does he dish out the blame. And if anyone dares to criticize him, he tells them that without him they wouldn't have been elected and they'd better shut up or he'll make sure they don't get elected again. Makes for a great work atmosphere!

What will happen next week when Rabin returns from the Far East? No one knows. Least of all Rabin. He makes policy U-turns like, well, like an Israeli driver. He can decide on Sunday to delay the tax and, if the guys who read his tea-leaves don't like the vibes, change his mind on Tuesday.

There you have it. Who needs a Republican majority in Congress to throw a wrench in a government's legislative plans? Regards, Neil

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WORLD MARKET REPORTS

- The trend towards a flatter yield curve continued until Wednesday, when the spread from the short-end to the 30 year T-bond yield bounced back to 30 bps after having fallen to 13 bps on Tuesday. Though the flattening yield curve indicates a slow-down in the economy, data shows that the US economy is still strong. The market has anticipated such data, and is divided as to whether the Fed will raise interest rates next week.
- The yield spread of 10 year UK gilts over German bunds has narrowed from 120bps to 110bps. The political problems faced by PM John Major's government has increased the risk premium demanded for UK gilts, but this is offset by the healthy UK financial and economic scenario.
- The UK equity market has been invigorated by the proposed merger between Warburg's and Morgan Stanley, and the possible bid for Northern Electric from Trafalgar House. The market was over-sold and ripe for a rally. The FT-SE 100 index will struggle to push through the 3000-3010 area, though the increased breadth of the market on this rally is encouraging. London International Group (85p) announced interim results, showing the Group achieving progress towards meeting the targets set out at the time of a refinancing earlier this year, and our buyers have returned.
- Wall Street's recovery prompted rallies from deeply over-sold territory in the Asia-Pacific markets. The Hong Kong market has gained some 470pts so far this week, after having fallen 160pts over the last three weeks. This rally should develop to around 8400, given an extension of Wall Street's performance. Similarly, the Kuala Lumpur market should be able to rally to 1000 and the Singapore market to 2200.
- Overall, global equity markets are in the process of correcting heavily over-sold conditions and the consequent rally is proving somewhat stronger than previous bounces. However, the upward pressure on interest rates is still strong and the rallies should not be chased too high.
- The gold bullion price has broken out of the \$375-\$378/oz. range, but is finding sellers at \$380. Again, bullion was over-sold, and a correction was due, but it is not expected to break over \$381 in the near-term.

Any information contained herein should not be construed in any way as a public offering.

Safdi won't participate in Hapoalim tender

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

Bank of Israel this week, to discuss the sale.

Safdi arrived in the country yesterday for his daughter Fortuna's wedding, which will take place in Jerusalem on Sunday.

Safdi said he does not plan to participate in business meetings during his current visit. About one-and-a-half years ago, during his last visit here, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat proposed Safdi participate in the govern-

ment tenders to purchase United Mizrahi Bank or Bank Hapoalim. Safdi agreed to seriously consider the proposal and even met with senior Bank of Israel and Bank Hapoalim managers.

Safdi owns Brazilian bank Cidade de San Paulo, and Commercial Bank of New York.

Safdi has invested in several Israeli companies in partnership with the Dovrat Shrem group and has made large donations to the Technion, Bar-Ilan University and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

'Vegetable prices will fall in Jan.'

VEGETABLE prices can't go any higher and they will start to fall next month, Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur said yesterday. Tsur said the rise in vegetable prices demonstrates that imports are not a solution. He emphasized that prices continued to go up in November despite the opening of the market to imports. The ministry blamed last month's sharp price rise on the cold weather and the temporary ban of imports from Gaza.

"The government must realize the importance of looking after and protecting farmers, if it wants stable vegetable prices throughout the year. Farmers will remain in agriculture only if they can maintain a reasonable standard of living," said Tsur.

Binglinal joins DDB Needham

LIAT COLLINS

THE Binglinal advertising agency has joined the international giant DDB Needham group and will now be called DDB Needham-Linal. DDB Needham is the fifth largest advertising concern in the world, with branches in 75 countries and a budget of \$6.2 billion for 1994.

Among its clients are Digital Computers, Volkswagen, Audi, Budget Rent-A-Car, Boots, Schweppes, Budweiser, MacDonald's, PepsiCo, Mobil, Hershey, Marks and Spencer, Moulinex, Grundig, Hasbro, and Johnson & Johnson. It has just won Sony's European account.

The two companies began cooperating on certain projects two years ago. "I was very impressed by the professional abilities of Ephraim Linal and his staff, and we believe in Binglinal's ability to handle clients at the highest professional level," said Bernard Brochand, the president of DDB's international department.

New Tax Brackets

As a result of November's 1.3 percent Consumer Price Index rise, the Treasury has updated tax brackets, tax credit points and child allowances by 5.2% as follows in NIS, which will be reflected in January's paychecks.

Tax rate	December '94 Bracket	January '95 Bracket
15%	up to 2,610	up to 2,800
30%	2,611 - 4,150	2,801 - 6,020
35%	4,151 - 5,800	bracket canceled
45%	5,801 - 8,980	6,021 - 11,800
50%	8,981 and above	11,801 and above

Tax credit point	115	121
Tax thresholds		
Single	1,725	1,815
Married with wife not working	2,492	2,622
Married with child	2,935	3,115
Married with 2 children	3,318	3,520
Working woman with 2 children	2,935	3,115

Working couple's threshold is equivalent to two single people combined and each child raises the threshold by an allowance point.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (16.12.94)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$200,000)	5.625	6.250	7.000
German mark (\$100,000)	4.875	5.375	6.250
French franc (\$200,000)	4.625	4.825	5.000
Swiss franc (\$200,000)	3.250	3.500	3.750
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (15.12.94)

Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	3.3190	3.3680	2.54	3.08	3.0470
German mark	2.9801	3.0222	1.87	1.98	1.9186
French franc	1.9324	1.9322	0.89	0.87	0.8562
Japanese yen (100)	4.6675	4.7333	0.59	0.57	0.5500
Dutch florin	2.8906	3.0225	2.83	3.07	3.0100
Swiss franc	1.7307	1.7346	1.27	1.25	1.2382
Spanish peseta	2.2514	2.2531	2.21	1.75	1.7182
Canadian dollar	0.5861	0.6017	0.49	0.41	0.3985
Norwegian krone	0.4359	0.4420	0.40	0.38	0.3712
Danish krone	0.4832	0.4920	0.43	0.45	0.4400
Finland mark	0.8128	0.8214	0.46	0.50	0.4895
Australian dollar	2.1575	2.1879	2.12	2.22	2.0774
Israeli shekel (10)	2.8254	2.8559	2.85	2.88	2.8174
S. African rand	0.8382	0.8500	0.74	0.76	0.7341
Belgian franc (10)	0.9247	0.9377	0.91	0.96	0.9442
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7018	2.7400	2.66	2.78	2.7253
Italian lire (1000)	1.6822	1.6920	1.79	1.90	1.8482
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.42	4.42	4.3975
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.85	0.85	0.8500
Irish punt	3.8555	3.8785	3.85	3.85	3.8577
Spanish peseta (100)	4.5699	4.6333	4.48	4.78	4.6800
—	2.2836	2.2954	2.20	2.36	2.2804

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

ANDRÉ LUMBROSO

Two-Sided Index Maof Index Karam Index

The Two-Sided index declined by 1.3%, the Maof by 0.8% and the Karam index by 0.78%. Turnover was NIS 103 million.

When it was discovered towards the end of trading that the CPI had risen by 1.4% during November, influenced as it was by a 10% rise in the prices of fruit and vegetables, this depressed the atmosphere. It did somewhat lower prices on the Two-Sided and Maof markets, but it was late in the day and there was not much that traders could do.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

PARIS - French shares ended mixed after slipping from their session highs. Some dealers cited points higher at 5,666.6, Industrial index 73.6 up at 6,827.3 and Gold index 60.3 down at 1,831.6.

WALL STREET REPORT

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

	MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFr	FFr
MARK	—	0.4072/76	63.90/93	0.8445/48	3.4457/82
STERLING	2.4540/50	—	156.83/85	2.0719/48	8.4531/82
YEN	1.5639/51	0.6370/78	—	1.3907/24	5.3884/41
SFr	1.1833/48	0.4820/27	75.54/64	—	4.0769/22
FFr	0.2901/03	0.1182/63	18.52/54	0.2450/53	—

(Spot market listings are from approximately 13:30 local time. All others are closing quotes.)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

מכאן למחר

Multi-sided trading

Two-sided trading

Commercial Banks	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Mortgage Banks & Finance	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Financial Institutions	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Insurance	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Trade & Services	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Industrials	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Unilever	481	1.0	-0.5
Woolworth	788	0.3	-0.5
Volcan	280	2.0	-0.5
Woolworth	1630	0.0	-0.5
Woolworth	1910	0.0	-0.5
Woolworth	5752	-0.2	-0.5
Zohar	941	2.0	-0.5
Zohar	1186	2.0	-0.5
Zohar	1724	0.0	-0.5
Zohar	4887	-0.0	-0.5
Zohar	3558	1.0	-0.5
Zohar	818	0.0	-0.5
Zohar	3020	0.0	-0.5
Zohar	498	0.0	-0.5

Property, Building & Agriculture	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
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Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

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Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
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Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

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Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

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Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

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Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
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Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

AFTERNOON	Price	Vol	Change
Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

Bank Leumi	2184	4.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
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Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

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Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

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Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

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Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
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Bank Hapoalim	1728	3.5	-0.1
Bank Mizrahi	1850	0.3	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	13938	0.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	720	2.0	-0.1
Bank Hapoalim	1750	2.0	-0.1

SOURCE: **ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK**

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

[illegible][illegible]

Alex & Alex	18.57%	0	Computer Aes Int	-44.75%	0	Hormelcorp	29.25%	0	Murphy Oil	41	-0.37%	Schering Plough	74.125	-1.5	Weyer's Mill	14.5	1.25
Allegany Power	25.1	-0.25	Computer Sci	48.25%	+1.25	Harris Corp	36.75%	+0.25	Nacco Ind	43.575	-0.875	Schlumberger	31.125	-0.375	Western Pab	10.5	0.375
Alltel Corp	33	-0.375	Conoco	22.85%	-0.125	Harsco Corp	36.875%	0	Nalco Chem	24.875	-0.875	Schlumberger	31.125	-0.375	Westinghouse	14.2	-1.125
Amgen	61.125	0.25	Corning	28.875%	0	Hawthorn	27.875%	-0.375	Nalco Chem	24.875	-0.875	Schlumberger	31.125	-0.375	Westinghouse	14.2	-1.125
Amstar	27	0	Covs Inc	39.625%	0	Hazmat	27.875%	-0.375	Nashua Corp	20.125	-0.375	Scotch	29.75	-0.125	Whitman	37.575	0.375
Amstar Corp	10.125	-0.25	Covs Natl	34.25%	0	Heda Mining	10.125	-0.125	Natl City Corp	25.575	-0.125	Southern Tech	29	-0.25	Whitman	45.825	-0.25
American Gas	44.825	-0.875	Covs Natl	35.25%	-0.875	Heda Mining	10.125	-0.125	Natl City Corp	25.575	-0.125	Southern Tech	29	-0.25	Whitman	16.575	-1.125

Amstar Fiber Power	-32.75	Coors (Duluth)	15.8125	0.5	Hershey Foods	43.125	0.25	Leaf Seed Int.	25.625	0.5	Service Motor	22.825	0.5	Wheaton	14.125	-0.25
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Corning Inc.	28.375	0.5	Hewlett Packard	39.125	-1.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-1.375	Cray Research	17	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Crow Corp Steel	38	-0.125	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
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Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375	0.5
Amstar Extruded	-0.125	Cummins Engine	27.875	0.5	Home Depot	44.875	-0.125	Northwest Data	45.375	-0.5	Shred Medical	31.875	-0.125	Wilmington Ind.	20.375</	

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North America	30,283	+0.05	Canada	30,170	+0.26	Lincoln NE	42,129	+0.15	Park Center	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Latin America	2,622	+0.05	Costa Rica	2,622	+0.05	London	42,129	+0.15	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
South America	2,622	+0.05	Peru	2,622	+0.05	Lithuania	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Europe	30,825	+0.12	PMF Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Asia	30,825	+0.12	FPL Group	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Africa	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Oceania	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
South America	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Europe	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Asia	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Oceania	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
South America	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Europe	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Asia	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Oceania	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
South America	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Europe	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Asia	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Oceania	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
South America	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Europe	30,825	+0.12	Federal Express	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-0.04
Asia	30,825	+0.12	Peabody Corp.	50,125	-0.05	London	30,825	+0.25	Portland ME	20,575	+0.15	Trinidad	48,075	+0.15	Champaign	72,101	-

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Brown & Brown	31.75	+0.75	Piedmont Co. (N)	41.25	+0.25	Marville Corp.	5.25	-0	Polmarc E Corp.	10	-0.25	UAI Corp.	67.25	+0.75	FRANKFURT	32.25	-0.25
Brown Group	28.75	+0.25	Florida Tech	30.50	-0.25	Masco Inc.	5.00	-0.25	Procter & Gamble	82.25	-0.50	USG Corp.	18.25	+1.25	Alamo AG	1070	+16
Bruckner	26.75	+1	Flyer Corp.	43.5	+0.25	Memo Inc.	21	+0.25	Pug Sign Empr.	28.75	+0.75	USG Masonry	17	+1.25	BAF	397.0	+2.7
Bruckner	17.25	+0.25	Food Lion Inc.	5.75	+0	Memo Int'l	21	+0.25	Pug Sign Empr.	28.75	+0.75	USG Steel	35.75	+0.75	Baystar	5.00	+0
Burlington	11.25	+1.25	Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
			Food Motor	26.25	+0.25	Mesa & Mktg.	78.75	+0.25	Quaker Oats	31.5	+0.75	Unicom Corp.	22.75	-0.25	Chrysler	727	+4.3
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Americans agree with Republican ends, not means - poll

NEW YORK (AP) - Most Americans agree that welfare should be reformed, the budget should be balanced and prayer should be permitted in schools, a New York Times-CBS News poll released Wednesday says.

But, despite the Republican landslide in last month's legislative elections, only 27 percent of those polled said they had heard of the so-called "Contract with America," the legislative program that Republicans have vowed to pass within the first 100 days of the new Congress.

Overall, 49 percent of respondents said they disapproved of how President Clinton was handling his job, while 38 percent approved and 13 percent weren't sure.

Of House Speaker-designate Newt Gingrich, 41 percent had an unfavorable opinion, while 25 percent had a favorable opinion and 33 percent weren't sure.

Asked about school prayer, 64 percent said they thought it should be permitted, while 29 percent said it should not be.

Over four-fifths of respondents, 81 percent, said they favored a balanced budget amendment to the constitution, while only 12 percent were opposed to one.

A work requirement for women on welfare who have young children was favored by 52 percent of respondents, and yet 87 percent thought government should create jobs programs for welfare recipients, and 59 percent would be willing to pay more taxes to support job training. Thirty-seven percent would not want to pay more taxes.

Nearly two-thirds, 65 percent, agreed that "it is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves," while only 29 percent disagreed with that statement.

Memorial Service for MIRIAM L. GAFNI ז"ל

Sunday, December 18, 1994 (15 Tevet 5755), at 7:00 p.m.

Karmiel Cultural Center Auditorium
All those who wish to honor her memory are invited
Bus transportation will be available, leaving from the Jewish Agency buildings in Jerusalem, 48 King George Street, at 3:00 p.m., and in Tel Aviv, from 17 Kaplan Street, at 4:00 p.m.

Important
Please call 02-232845 or 02-202450/1 to confirm a place on the bus.

The Gafni Family
The Municipality of Karmiel
The Jewish Agency for Israel
The Masorti Movement
Kehillat Hakarem, Karmiel

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

ENID SILVERMAN ז"ל

widow of J. Alex Silverman ז"ל

The funeral took place yesterday in Jerusalem.

Children: Dr. Gabriel and Viva Sivan, Jerusalem
Malcolm and Camille Silverman, Rehovot
Rabbi Vivian and Lynette Silverman, London
Together with all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren
Shiva at 129 Rehov Harav Uziel, Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem

On the second anniversary of the death of our beloved SOLLY KLAPISCH ז"ל

his family and friends will meet at the Savion cemetery on Monday, December 19, at 8 a.m.

The Family

The unveiling of the tombstone of PERCY LEVIN ז"ל

will take place at the Kibbutz Einat cemetery on Friday, December 23, 1994 (20 Tevet 5755), at 11 a.m.

The Family

On the anniversary of the passing of our dear mother and grandmother Rabbanit SARAH HERZOG ז"ל

services will be held in the Sanhedria Cemetery on Sunday, December 18, 1994 at 3:30 p.m.

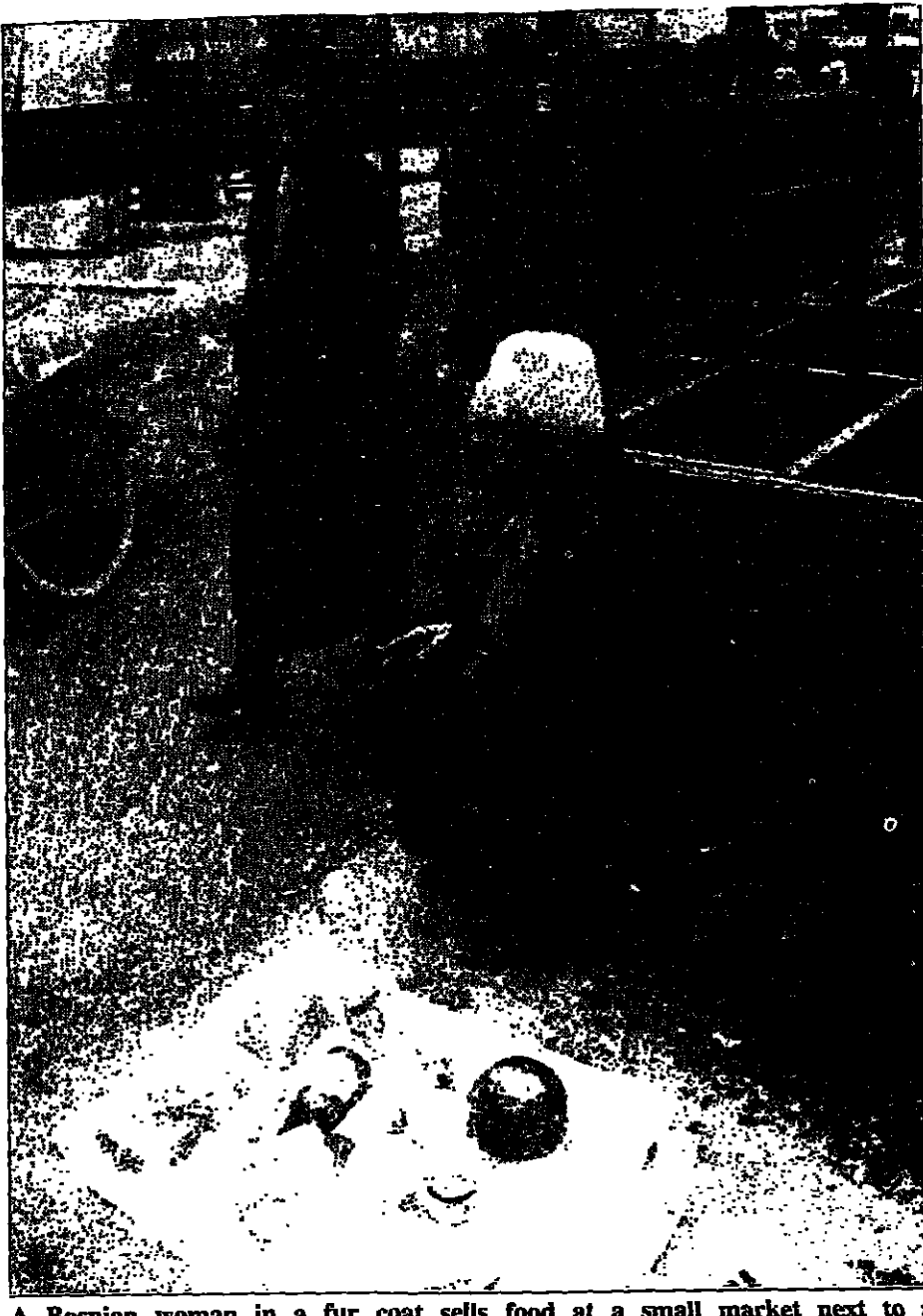
The Family

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our dear RENE KUTTNER

Johannesburg, South Africa

Daughter and son-in-law: Sonya and Ehud Federman
Granddaughter and husband: Tali and Pini Zevi-Federman

The W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research mourns the recent, untimely deaths of ROBERT G. BOLING Former Annual Professor JEAN BOLING WILLIAM J. JOBLING Former Dorot Research Professor and extends heartfelt condolences to their families.



A Bosnian woman in a fur coat sells food at a small market next to a burned out kiosk in Sarajevo yesterday. (AP)

Carter likely off to Bosnia

WASHINGTON (AP) - The leader of Bosnia's Serbs is beginning to make good on his promises to Jimmy Carter, and the former president could be on his way to Bosnia this weekend to try to arrange a cease-fire, a senior Clinton administration official said yesterday.

Carter would go without the specific approval of Clinton, who talked to Carter last week before the former president received an emissary from Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in Atlanta and again Wednesday afternoon.

"He didn't say 'go,' he didn't say 'don't go,'" the official told The Associated Press. "President Carter asked for information on whether the assurances were being kept, and then will make his own judgment."

Karadzic, through the emissary, had promised Carter the Serbs would observe a cease-fire around Sarajevo and let UN humanitarian convoys operate freely.

The Serbs seem to be implementing

their assurances, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, Dee Dee Myers, the White House press secretary, said she did not know whether Carter had made a firm commitment to go to Bosnia. She said if Carter went it would be as a private citizen, not as a presidential emissary.

For the third time this year, the president has waded into a foreign policy matter buffalooning the White House. With cautious approval from Clinton, Carter defused a nuclear standoff in North Korea and headed off a US invasion in Haiti.

Defense Secretary William Perry expressed his doubts today at a NATO meeting in Brussels, citing Karadzic's cease-fire offer to Carter.

"To the extent that Karadzic follows through on that proposal, that will be a positive step. Past history of offers from Bosnian Serbs have indicated there's some need for skepticism," Perry told reporters.

'Loyalists' talk peace with Britain

BELFAST (AP) - Northern Ireland's pro-British extremists, with several hundred murders behind them, met the British government yesterday to discuss the price of peace.

The political representatives of Northern Ireland's two "loyalist" paramilitary groups, the outlawed Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force, had never sat down before for formal negotiations with Britain.

The meeting came two months after both Protestant-based groups ended their campaign of killing members of Northern Ire-

land's minority Catholic community. Another meeting is expected next Thursday.

"We are loyalist people and the British government is our government," said Billy Hutchinson, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party delegation, on the front steps of the grandiose Stormont Castle in suburban east Belfast.

He said the meeting had given him a better feeling for "what has been going on behind closed doors," and reassured him that Britain wasn't about to abandon Northern Ireland.

Last week Britain held its first formal meetings with Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political allies, at the same site.

Stormont is the former seat of the province's Protestant-dominated government, which Britain abolished in 1972.

Hutchinson, 39, a former UVF member who spent 15 years in prison for killing two Catholics in a bomb attack, characterized the 3½ hours of talks as "very careful. People didn't want to give too much away about their negotiating stances."

Protest over Prodigy's on-line hate

ALARMED by the growing presence of hate groups in cyberspace, the Simon Wiesenthal Center sent a letter to the Prodigy computer on-line service protesting the "continued use of Prodigy by bigots to promote their agendas of hate."

The center said it has tracked increasing activity over the last few months by more than 50 hate groups using on-line services and the popular Internet global computer network.

"More and more of these groups are embracing and utilizing the information superhighway," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the center. "The slurs are the same but the venue is different."

The center called on commercial on-line services to keep hate groups out and proposed that the government play a similar policing role on the amorphous Internet, citing concerns that young people could be exposed to white supremacy in an environment unmediated by teachers, parents or librarians. About 20 million computer users are connected to the Internet, and another 5 million use commercial on-line services,

including about 2 million on Prodigy.

But civil libertarians - and white supremacists themselves - say cyberspace, like any other medium of expression, must remain open to free speech. And in an uncharted territory where the rules of engagement are still unformed, the center's offensive is sure to sharpen the ongoing debate over electronic censorship.

"It's a genuinely difficult problem," says Marc Rotenberg, director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, an on-line civil liberties organization. "And there are no paradigms to turn to."

Prodigy was the focus of controversy involving antisemitic comments in 1991, and worked with the Anti-Defamation League at the time to craft a policy that forbids "blatant expressions of hatred" on its boards. All messages are also run through a computer that scans for obscenities before they are posted. But Cooper says the service should

look more carefully at messages that target groups rather than individuals.

Prodigy is not the only on-line service to be utilized by hate groups. Rick Eaton, who monitors cyberspace for the Wiesenthal Center, says America Online and CompuServe have both had similar postings, although to a lesser degree than Prodigy.

Kevin Strom, who produces a weekly radio show for the National Alliance, and has been active on-line, said he was recently blocked from the "Political" and "Issues" forums on CompuServe. "Apparently somebody complained that our articles were bashing ethnic minorities," Strom says. "So the system operator decided we didn't deserve freedom of speech."

Strom says the articles he posted on the forums were among those which users transferred most frequently to their home computers.

One titled "The Wisdom of Henry Ford," which reviewed the book *The International Jew*, was downloaded 120 times one week, he said. *Los Angeles Times*

Thieves steal \$3m. in diamonds from Belgian exchange

ANTWERP (Reuters) - Belgium's secretive diamond trade was in shock yesterday after police discovered that safes in one of the world's biggest diamond exchanges had been burgled.

Belgian radio estimated the theft from six safes in the Kring diamond exchange amounted to

about \$3 million worth of diamonds.

"An enormous amount of diamonds have been stolen," police spokesman Luc Lamine told a news conference in Antwerp in northern Belgium.

Antwerp, the world's biggest diamond trading center, has four exchanges including the Kring,

the city's biggest. Lamine said about \$1 million worth of diamonds had gone from one safe.

Foreign currencies worth millions of Belgian francs were missing from a second safe and mainly polished diamonds "of a very high value" were stolen from the other four.

Bruton to head new Irish gov't

DUBLIN (Reuters) - John Bruton became prime minister of Ireland yesterday at the head of an untried right-left coalition government, ending a month-long political crisis that cast a shadow over the Northern Ireland peace process.

Bruton, 47, said his "Government of Renewal" grouping his center-right Fine Gael party, the Labor Party and the radical Democratic Left would make the peace push launched by Dublin and London exactly one year ago its top priority.

"We are going to work ceaselessly and sensitively to make peace a permanent part of the future," Bruton, who calls himself a Christian Democrat, told parliament in announcing a 15-member cabinet that gives Democratic Left its first ministerial post.

He heads a so-called "rainbow coalition" grouping all shades of the Irish political spectrum to replace the partnership

government of former prime minister Albert Reynolds which collapsed in a row over legal appointments last month.

Of the 165 seats in parliament, Fine Gael has 47, Labor 32 and the Democratic Left six. The main opposition is Reynolds' Fianna Fail, which with 67 seats is parliament's largest party.

Formation of the government was stalled at the last minute by Democratic Left's insistence that it be given two cabinet seats but it accepted a compromise under which its leader, Proinsias de Rossa, took the Social Welfare portfolio.

Under the compromise the two-year-old party, which has its roots in a pro-Moscow Marxist workers party, will get several junior ministries, party officials said.

Bruton, a onetime finance minister who says he has a firm commitment to keep a lid on government spending, named Labor's Ruairi Quinn as finance minister.

Islamic leaders urge military aid for Bosnia

CASABLANCA (AP) - Islamic leaders urged military aid for Bosnia's embattled Muslims and vowed to combat religious fanaticism which has destabilizing their nations.

But appeals for greater Moslem unity were undercut by rifts among Arab participants that remained unresolved at the close of a three-day summit of the 32-member Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Jordan's King Hussein, the Arab world's longest-reigning leader, quit the summit Wednesday, apparently because of a feud with the Palestinians who accuse him of making deals with Israel that could undercut their claim to sovereignty over Jerusalem.

One of the summit's goals was to end feuds that have plagued the Arab world since Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, polarizing the region into pro- and anti-Iraq camps.

The host Moroccan government lamented the failure of the reconciliation effort. It regretted that "one OIC member was unhappy," alluding to King Hussein's early departure and Jordan's reservations over the Jerusalem resolution.

"Despite all the goodwill efforts, we regretfully found that the Gulf War has left an open wound which has to be healed," said Morocco's King Hassan II.

"It is time to let bygones be bygones; it is time for forgiveness," he said of the failure to bring the Iraqis together

with Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian delegations.

Despite the disputes, participants agreed on a 182-article communiqué on issues ranging from terrorism in the Islamic world to technology and culture. They agreed to hold the next Islamic summit in Tehran in December 1997.

A separate, six-page document - the Casablanca Declaration - complained about "a ferocious campaign to tarnish Islam," denounced "extremism and religious fanaticism" and called for an organized media effort to "rectify misconceptions" that have made Islam synonymous with violence.

It condemned terrorism as "a blatant disgrace to Islamic teachings and a violation of our values, culture and heritage."

It pledged "sincere cooperation" with international anti-terrorism efforts, without "infringing on the legitimate right of national resistance to occupation."

The plight of Bosnian Muslims was a unifying issue for the leaders who came from far-flung countries in Europe, Asia and Africa. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic attended as an observer, and his government received pledges of between \$300,000 to \$5 million from each Islamic state.

The Bosnia resolution went beyond the expected call to lift the arms embargo that favors the better-equipped Bosnian Serbs.

German neo-Nazi gets 18 months for denial

BONN (AP) - Germany's most notorious neo-Nazi was convicted yesterday of inciting racial hatred by denying the Holocaust and was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

The state court in Munich found Ewald Althaus, 28, guilty of inciting racial hatred, spreading banned Nazi propaganda and offending the memory of the dead.

The conviction came hours after the federal appeals court threw out a ruling by two judges who praised another right-wing denier of the Holocaust for "strengthening the resistance of the German people to Jewish demands."

The federal court attacked the Mannheim state court's reasoning in its June decision to give 55-year-old Guenter Deckert a one-year suspended sentence.

Another lower court was ordered to reconsider Deckert's sentence. The Munich court said it was influenced by the federal appeal court's ruling.

Althaus was convicted of making and distributing documentary films that glorify Adolf Hitler.

insult Jews and deny that the Nazis ever killed 6 million Jews.

Among those appearing in the films are Fred Leuchter of Malden, Massachusetts, who builds electric chairs and lethal injection devices; Ernst Zundel, a German extremist living in Canada; and David Irving, a British revisionist historian.

Althaus, one of Germany's most widely known neo-Nazis, is awaiting trial on similar charges.

Deckert, leader of the extremist National Democratic Party, claimed at a rally that the murder of 6m. Jews was a hoax.

Deckert was convicted in November 1992, but the appeals court on March 15 overruled the conviction.

Ignatz Bubis, chairman of the Jewish community in Germany, said the federal court's ruling meant that denying Holocaust in the future will not be treated "as an expression of free opinion but as inciting racial hatred."

"These differences were never stated so clearly as today," Bubis said in welcoming the ruling.

CPI

(Continued from Page 1)
"Fruit and vegetable prices are like a spring that has been stretched and which will bounce right back," said Katz. According to him, the high prices will fall early next year and will help lower inflation.

For the second month in a row, housing prices rose less than 1%, a sign that a trend for lower housing price hikes could become more permanent, said Katz. Ozama agreed with that assessment, saying he foresees such moderation in this month's index.

Wholesale prices rose a relatively high 1% last month, mostly reflecting higher world commodity prices. Based on underlying inflation, which adjusts for seasonal factors and government controlled prices, Katz says inflation has moderated to an annual rate of 11%-12%.

The Central Bureau of Statistics has not yet decided how it will measure the cost of health with the imposition of the health tax next month. Although technically it will be a direct tax on income

instead of an out-of-pocket expense, the bureau has decided not to treat it as such, since it would mean eliminating the health portion of the consumer basket. Its disappearance would also mean a statistical drop in inflation.

As a result, Ozama said the bureau is considering to continue measuring directly health costs, including the tax, or to do so indirectly, by means of the impact of health costs on the other elements that make up the basket.

The bureau has two months to make up its mind, Ozama said. Histadrut Trade Union Section chairman Amir Peretz questioned whether last month's high index would undermine the cost-of-living wage adjustment arrangement the Treasury is trying to put together. He said the adjustment that would be paid in February would amount to 2.9%, only making up for 45% of inflation.

The rise brought the index to 118.7 points on a baseline averaging 100 in 1993.

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Maccabi beats CSKA

Curic scores 31 in OT win

BRIAN FREEMAN

MACCABI Tel Aviv rode the strong back of Radisav Curic to a 92-89 overtime win over CSKA Moscow at Yad Eiyahu last night, its second consecutive European Club Championship victory.

Curic scored 31 points and pulled down 11 rebounds, as Maccabi withstood a furious Russian blitz from three-point range to even its record at 3-3 in the championships.

Moscow lost its third consecutive European contest after opening the tournament with three straight wins.

Norris Coleman, who had 19 points on the night, missed a jumper with only seconds remaining in regulation.

But he came up big in overtime, going 4-4 from the line and forcing a key turnover with only 90 seconds on the clock and the score knotted at 87-87.

It was Curic, however, who was the Israeli's savior on the night. He was 11 for 12 from the field and 9 for 11 from the line, as he was almost unstoppable inside in his best performance by far in a Maccabi uniform.

Moscow got into early foul trouble trying to stop him, as four players had at least three fouls by halftime. This proved to be a key factor in overtime, as the Russians were without their leading scorer for the season, Evgeny Kissurine, and Sergei Grezin.

From the opening whistle, Curic's aggressiveness was evident, pulling down several rebounds and scoring five quick points to help the Israelis jump out to a 12-5 lead 3:35 minutes into the game.

Maccabi was unable to sustain the momentum, however, as CSKA found the range on their shots and took the lead briefly at 22-20 with 8:40 left in the half before the Israelis went into the locker room ahead 38-33.

The Israelis might have had a bigger lead, but could not take advantage of the many free-throw opportunities, going 13-21 in the period.

This almost proved fatal, as after the break, sharpshooter Igor Koudelin could not miss.

He sank 22 points on the strength of six 3-pointers for the night. Moscow led by as many as three points late in the game before Maccabi, thanks in large part to 12 second-half points by Motti Daniel, stormed back to force the overtime.

Jamchee had 16 points. For CSKA, Sergei Panov had 18 and Patrick Eddie 17.

In other Group A action, Panathinaikos beat hosts Olimpija Ljubljana 65-62, and visiting Real Madrid defeated PAOK Salonika 73-57.

The championships now takes a break until January 5, when Maccabi travels to Benfica Lisbon, CSKA hosts Ljubljana, Real visits Panathinaikos and Scavolini Pesaro plays at home against PAOK.

Zimbabwe beats England

SYDNEY (AP) - Grant Flower scored an unbeaten 84 yesterday that steered Zimbabwe to a memorable 13-run victory over England in a World Series limited-overs cricket match at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Flower and David Houghton shared a century stand as Zimbabwe was bowled out for 205 in 49.3 overs but then dismissed England for 192.

Zimbabwe now has won the only two matches it has played against England - including a World Cup match in Australia three years ago.

SCOREBOARD

WEDNESDAY'S NBA RESULTS: Cleveland 95, New Jersey 88 (OT); Orlando 128, Denver 96; Charlotte 106, Detroit 93; Indiana 81, Atlanta 79; Utah 103, Minnesota 95; Milwaukee 99, Philadelphia 96; San Antonio 122, Boston 110; Phoenix 111, Seattle 93; Portland 121, LA Clippers 73. NATIONAL LEAGUE SOCCER - (all matches tomorrow at 14:30 unless stated): Hapoel Tel Aviv v Bnei Yehuda, Be'er Sheva v Maccabi Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva v Maccabi Tel Aviv, Hapoel Tel Aviv v Bnei Yehuda, Be'er Sheva v Maccabi Tel Aviv, Petah Tikva v Maccabi Tel Aviv.

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- The Post's "agony aunt" Ruth Blum answers readers' questions.
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Peretz denies he refused to help Deri

FORMER interior minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz yesterday denied an accusation he had not helped Aryeh Deri by promoting the granting of alternative land to a group Deri headed that could not build at Nebi Samwil.

Peretz - testifying at Deri's trial in Jerusalem District Court - denied an accusation by Deri's lawyer, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, that he had "screwed" Deri by not honoring his promises to intervene on the matter. He said he had brought the matter up at a cabinet meeting, and spoken in favor of granting the organization alternative land. Peretz added he had not talked about it privately to other ministers, because he did not think this necessary.

However, Avi-Yitzhak noted that the protocols of the cabinet meeting show no record of Peretz's remarks.

Peretz appointed Deri as director-general of his ministry in 1984, but later clashed with him over the so-called "stinking maneuver," when Deri tried to lead efforts to overthrow the second national unity government. He asked the prosecution not to call him as a witness, claiming people would think he was out to get revenge against Deri. However, the State Attorney's office insisted he testify.

Peretz said he had only heard about the Nebi Samwil land situation from Deri after he had already resigned as interior minister, a step he took in 1986 when the High Court of Justice ordered him to register Shoshana Miller, a Reform convert, as a Jew in her identity card.

Peretz said Deri approached him during a cabinet meeting and asked to speak to him outside about a non-profit organization that wanted to build at Nebi Samwil. Peretz said Deri's was one of thousands of requests he received from haredi circles to intervene on their behalf, adding he did not know at the time that Deri or anyone else from Shas was connected to the organization that had bought the Nebi Samwil land. (Itim)

Ashdod teacher wins Rothschild Prize

The Rothschild Prize in memory of the late Max Rowe was awarded last night to Sonia Leib, an outstanding teacher from Ashdod. The \$12,000 award was presented to her at a ceremony at the Knesset. Leib was cited for her work with immigrant children and pupils with learning disabilities.

Shahal: Police to clamp down on domestic violence

RAINE MARCUS

THE police have been instructed to treat every complaint of domestic violence very seriously, Police Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday.

"If complaints lodged by women are later canceled, police must ask themselves why," he said at the end of a five-day course to qualify 30 police officers to head domestic violence units. "It could mean that the woman has been threatened with more violence and is afraid to lodge a complaint."

Every fifth family has a violence problem, Shahal said, whether it be a husband who abuses his wife, or a mother who beats her children. Both the Jewish and Arab communities are affected by the problem.

"Society must condemn violent men," he said. "Certain sectors should stop believing that a man who slaps a woman is a 'real man'."

Shahal said he hopes special courts formed to try domestic violence cases will be operating soon. Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said police must be trained to combat all aspects of the problem, not just law enforcement.

"The problem is a complex and sensitive one and affects all members of society," he told course participants. Public awareness has increased, but citizens should become more involved.

"We will implement many changes in our treatment of domestic violence, but these cannot be made overnight," he said.

Since January, 18 women have been murdered by their husbands. In 1993, 22 women were



Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz makes a point at yesterday's course, as Police Minister Moshe Shahal looks on.

(Alon Ron/Israel Sun)

murdered by violent spouses.

National investigations chief Yossi Levy said police attitudes toward domestic violence have changed over the past six years.

"Once, it was a routine incident," he said. "Since then, there have been many developments. Police must deal with attacks by

violent husbands differently than an ordinary attack in the street. There must be a deep understanding of the nature of the problem."

But Prof. Zvi Izkovitch, of Haifa University, did not agree the police should adopt the approach of social workers.

"Research has shown that a violent husband will learn more from a night in jail than a year of psychotherapy," he said. "The attitude of the police toward domestic attacks has taken a turn for the better, but police do not need to do the job of social workers. Police want to take on a com-

plex phenomenon. Let them just enforce the law and arrest criminals."

Colder, rainier weather expected

DAVID RUDGE

MORE typical winter weather is set to return, with colder temperatures and rain forecast for the weekend and more rain expected at the beginning of next week.

The Meteorological Service said heavy rain is expected in the North later today, and will slowly spread as far south as the Negev.

The rain, accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds, is expected to intensify tomorrow, with a risk of flooding in low-lying areas. The wintry weather is slated to ease by tomorrow night, to be replaced by occasional showers on Sunday, only to return with greater force Monday night.

Meanwhile, the water level in the Kinneret is rising at the rate of one centimeter a day, but experts said they hope the expected rain will increase the flow.

The Lake Kinneret Authority reported that the level is 210.73 below sea level, just 1.83 meters from the maximum mark.

Mekorot officials said the heavy rains last month and earlier this month had helped replenish the coastal aquifer, while the Yarkon Taninim aquifer is almost full.

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